

TODAY

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PAGE 3

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MONDAY

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Florence deal denounced as 'figleaf'

Major claims victory in the beef war

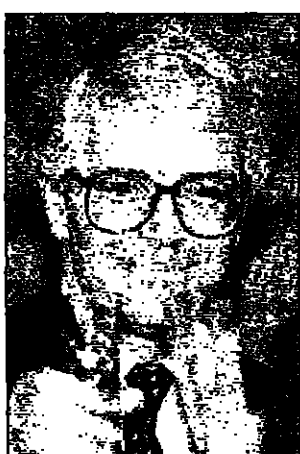
By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner in Florence

JOHN MAJOR called off the beef war with the European Union yesterday after four weeks of conflict.

But his claim that the unprecedented campaign of obstruction the Government has waged against EU business had won him his objectives was met with derision from some Brussels officials and individual member countries. They launched an immediate attempt to rubbish last-minute concessions which had been hailed by ministers as soon as the deal was signed.

Hopes that the deal means that Britain may soon be able to export to third countries such as South Africa were played down. Officials called the deal a "figleaf" and a "sop to British public opinion". Agreement was reached at the end of yesterday's first session of the two-day EU summit in Florence, with all the combatants relieved to put an unhappy period in EU affairs behind them. After the deal reconciling Britain's demands for an agreed process for lifting the ban with Europe's insistence on public health guarantees, Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said the compromise "removes a dark cloud".

Mr Major declared himself extremely pleased and said that he had achieved a satisfactory agreement much earlier than he would have done otherwise. "This has been a squabble. We had something



Major yesterday: "This has been a squabble"

that we had to sort out. It was necessary to bring it to a speedy conclusion."

In a series of interviews hailing the deal, the Prime Minister said last night that he expected to begin getting the ban lifted in the autumn. He denied that he had damaged the EU. "We have these disagreements from time to time. There is not a nation in the EU that does not sometimes stand up and fight for its interests... If countries were treated as Britain was treated, they would defend their national interests."

"What stokes up ill feeling and resentment in the UK sometimes is the feeling that perhaps Britain is being put upon." He dismissed Eurosceptics' fears that he might

have had to bargain for the deal. No deals had been done on anything other than beef, he said. There had been "no cross-referencing" on monetary union or anything else.

The summit approved the plan drawn up by the Brussels Commission this week for a stage-by-stage lifting of the export ban on British beef as Britain implements eradication measures, including a cull of cattle that has been widened far beyond Britain's original hopes. But it secured a promise that third countries could ask Brussels to be allowed to buy British beef.

No timetable is included in the plan. But in a move that will be welcomed warmly by Conservative MPs, the Prime Minister is expected to give estimates in the Commons on Monday of when Britain believes it will have fulfilled the conditions for raising the different parts of the ban.

In London, Labour dismissed the agreement. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said there were no dates and Mr Major would not be able to answer the question when the ban would be lifted. "Today's statement will leave Tory MPs fighting the next election with most of the ban still in place," he said.

Under the proposal the embargo on the export of beef

Continued on page 2, col 7

David Davis, page 2
Leading article, page 25



English and Spanish supporters join a pre-match party at the Banco Exterior de España in the City yesterday

England holds its breath for Spanish encounter

By Alan Hamilton and John Goodbody

BEEES will buzz and blackbirds chirrup undisturbed for 90 minutes today as a great silence descends on the English summer afternoon. Lawnmowers will be still, and all the noise will be indoors, except at Wembley.

England's Euro 96 quarter-final football clash with Spain, the most important encounter between the two countries since 1988, will be watched on BBC1 by an estimated 18 million people, a British record for Saturday afternoon viewing. England's semi-final against West Germany in the 1990 World Cup attracted 25.2 million viewers, but that was in the evening and on both channels.

There will be little escape. British Airways, which will have 90 flights in the air around the world during the period of the match, has arranged to radio regular bulletins to its captains so that they may keep passengers up to date on the game's progress. Travellers on BA flights to Spain will be offered free champagne irrespective of their nationality.

Traditional English pursuits will be equally infected. Organisers of this afternoon's Francis Bailey primary school annual fete at Thatcham, near Newbury, Berkshire, spent yesterday in search of a spare television set to install in a makeshift bar. Linda McCulloch-Smith, the school head, said: "We are certainly not going to be put off by the football; we will have a TV in the school because we don't want all the men to wander off just before 3pm." Village cricket

Continued on page 2, col 3
Euro 96, pages 53-56

Murder trial 18 years after killing

A man accused of murdering Lynn Siddons, 16, went on trial 18 years after his stepson was cleared of murdering her. Michael Brookes allegedly ordered his timid stepson, Fitzroy, to stab Lynn beside a Derby canal in 1978. Then took over himself. Page 3

India 261 behind

India were 83 for two after the second day of the second Test at Lord's. 261 runs behind England, for whom Jack Russell, the wicketkeeper, scored 124. Page 51

Stuck in space

Two cosmonauts face an extra 20 days in the Mir space station because Russia cannot afford the Soyuz rocket boosters that ferry them to and from it. Page 19

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Children stranded by French port violence

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS, SUSAN BELL IN OUISTREHAM, AND JONATHAN PRYNN

THOUSANDS of British holidaymakers were caught up in a wave of violent protests over BSE across France yesterday as mobs of rioting French beef farmers blockaded two Channel ports.

In the worst incident, a ferry with 500 passengers was forced to wait outside Ouirestham harbour in Normandy for 13 hours, preventing it from picking up a stranded party of sick and disabled children.

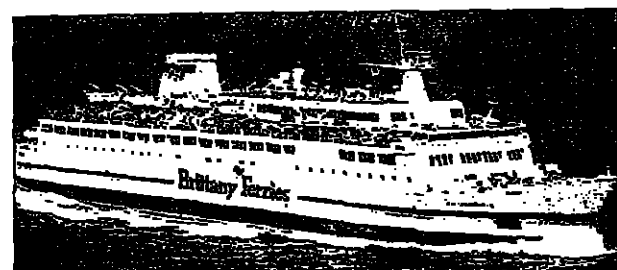
Three other ferries bound for Cherbourg from Southampton, Portsmouth and Poole were delayed by up to two hours by fighting between farmers and police outside the Normandy port.

The Foreign Office warned of further delays for visitors to France today as the farmers' union stepped up its protest over the collapse in beef sales across Europe triggered by the British BSE scare.

Britanny Ferries, whose ves-

sel Normandie was forced to turn away from Ouirestham on Thursday night, said it was demanding an inquiry by the French authorities and threatened legal action. The ferry finally docked at 7.30am yesterday.

"I can't emphasise how outraged we are that yet again our service has been disrupted and that the French authorities made no arrangements to allow us to go about our business," said a spokesman for the company, which



One of the ferries delayed by farmers' protests

is part owned by a consortium of French farmers.

Terrified passengers were prevented from leaving the ship by farmers who drove tractors across the embarkation ramp and threatened to set them on fire. Police and port officials in Caen tried to persuade the farmers to let the ferry dock so the special-needs children from an English school could board.

Norman Pearson, 41, from Christchurch, Dorset, said: "It was a shameful display.

The police and other people were pleading with the farmers, saying the kids had run out of food and medicine but they just did not care."

The protest also hit French schoolchildren on a trip to England. Their crossing was delayed by the protests.

Michelle Laisnel, a teacher who was looking after a party from the Crèvecœur School in Calvados, Brittany, said: "The [farmers] were chanting and shouting, and when the riot police came some of the children became frightened."

Passengers said one group of schoolchildren were put up in the town hall in Caen by the Mayor, who gave them food and bedding.

Passengers on the ship were all allocated cabin berths or reclining seats and were served an evening meal and breakfast, Britanny Ferries said. Other services were unaffected.

In Le Mans six people were

injured in clashes between 600 stone-throwing demonstrators and riot police who used teargas and batons.

The race track at Magny-Cours near Nevers was invaded by farmers who threatened to stop the French Grand Prix this month. The motorway from Paris to Lyons ground to a virtual halt in places as farmers took to the road on tractors. Farmers also obstructed the railway line near Creusot in eastern France, holding up the high-speed Paris-Lyons train.

Most French farmers hold Britain directly responsible for the crisis that has seen beef demand drop by almost a third in France and farmers say they have lost at least two billion francs (£26 million).

The Mayor of Sancerre in the Sancerre region has warned that he will turn British holiday-makers away from the local campsite for their own protection.

Europe minister goes to ground over 'resignation'

By Jill Sherman
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID DAVIS, the Minister for European Affairs, went to ground yesterday as the Government tried to play down reports that he had offered his resignation to John Major. Mr Davis, normally an accessible figure, kept well away from journalists at the European Union summit in Florence.

On arriving at the city's airport yesterday morning he said a newspaper

story claiming that he had told Mr Major he wanted to resign because of personal frustration and his dissatisfaction with the Government's European policy was rubbish.

Throughout the day, however, neither Mr Davis nor other ministers and government officials would confirm or deny that a letter had been sent to the Prime Minister. Questioned by television reporters, Mr Davis said "of course" he was on board with Mr Major. He said he had written "half

the policy" so how could he disagree with it?

But the Government's ministerial minders seemed determined to keep him out of harm's way. He was not seen again in public that day and failed to appear in the press room where at past summits he has performed the role of an unofficial spin doctor. He also failed to show at the British press conference with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary.

Rumours have been circulating in

Westminster for some weeks that Mr Davis — MP for Boothferry in Yorkshire — is unhappy with his non-Cabinet job. He also complained to colleagues last July that he had not been promoted in the reshuffle.

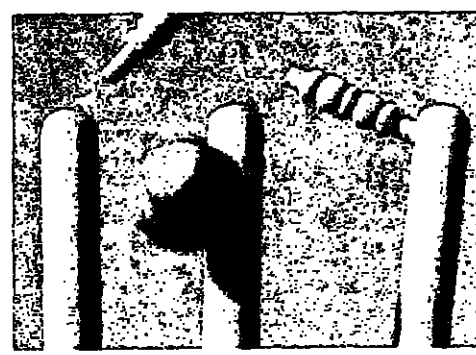
Last night there was speculation that he had submitted the letter before the policy of non-cooperation with Europe had started and that he might subsequently have withdrawn it.

Davis profile, page 2

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OUT FOR A DUCK



IN FOR A TREAT

2ND COPENHAGEN TEST MATCH v INDIA, Lord's 20-24 June
GARRINGTON OPEN 20 June-14 July
WIMBLEDON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 24 June-7 July
ROUND THE ISLAND RACE, Isle of Wight 29 June
VINTAGE CLICQUOT GOLD CUP FULF, COMBAT FIVE 29 June-21 July
BIRLEY ROYAL REGATTA 3-7 July
HAMPTON COURT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW 9-14 July
BRITISH GRAND PRIX, SILVERSTONE 14 July
1ST COPENHAGEN TEST MATCH v PAKISTAN, Lord's 25-29 July
GLADSTONE GOODWOOD 30 July-3 August

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EURO 96
Rob Hughes, Lynne Price
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Dorrell gives the go-ahead for longer hospital waiting lists

By NIGEL HAWKES

HOSPITALS were given the go-ahead yesterday to increase waiting lists to cope with the increasing demand for emergency surgery.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, approved the move as a "short-term response" to free beds in times of peak demand. But he said that it was unacceptable for managers to force patients to wait an extra two years for surgery. This was not the same as delaying an operation for one or two weeks.

"There is a world of difference between waiting a week or two for an operation and edging back to the situation that existed at the end of the 1980s," he said.

The rise in emergency admissions is

alarming hospitals, which have said that they may not be able to meet demand when it peaks during the winter months. Speaking to the annual conference of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, Mr Dorrell said that there were many ways of coping with the pressures, including commissioning extra beds in the short term, reducing or delaying elective surgery, such as hip replacements, or opening short-term admission wards.

Without abandoning the progress towards shorter waiting lists, which he said was an important achievement of recent years, Mr Dorrell made it clear that he did not expect further progress this year. He was prepared to envisage an increase, so long as it was only a matter of weeks. Mr Dorrell's speech

in Harrogate was couched in terms likely to win approval from health service managers but was received noticeably more coolly than that of the Labour leader Tony Blair the day before. The Health Secretary had no new initiatives to offer and has given health authorities and trusts a hard time by his demand for a 5 per cent cut in management costs.

This had been achieved, he said, releasing £300 million from administration and into patient care. When questioned he declined to rule out further cuts, though he did concede that "what was right this year isn't necessarily appropriate to another year".

Some non-executive members of trusts and health authorities have also been concerned by the suggestion

made by Sir Len Peach, the NHS appointments secretary, that they should serve only one contract. Since many are appointed only on two-year contracts while others are given four years, this appears illogical, and Mr Dorrell agreed to think again. He said that he thought eight years was a reasonable maximum term.

His speech was a robust defence of the Health Service, accused by Mr Blair of sinking to the level of a "rump" service. Mr Dorrell denied the charge, saying that the NHS delivered equitable access to healthcare, at a cost few rival countries could match. "NHS healthcare is extremely efficiently delivered," he said. "That simple fact represents an important British achievement which we should be determined to safeguard."

Sanctuary case man has 'heart attack'

An illegal immigrant who was taken by police from a chapel where he had sought sanctuary was in hospital last night with a suspected heart attack. Albert Tong, 43, will remain under observation at Tredegar hospital in Truro, Cornwall, while doctors await the result of tests.

Mr Tong has lived illegally in Britain for 17 years. A Home Office spokeswoman said: "We will not move Mr Tong until we have been told that it is safe to do so."

Asylum ruling, page 10

Ballot go-ahead

Mike Watson, Labour MP for Glasgow Central, was yesterday refused an injunction to prevent a number of listed members from voting in a selection ballot for the Glasgow Govan constituency, in which he is standing. The Court of Session in Edinburgh ruled that the Labour Party had properly checked the eligibility of all those entitled to vote.

Opera peace

Staff at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, who confronted the Queen over cutbacks when she visited earlier this year, have settled their dispute. Their union Bectu agreed terms after months of talks at the conciliation service Acas. Nearly 100 being made jobless this autumn will receive retraining. A 4 per cent rise is being backdated to April.

Solstice arrests

As the sun rose over Stonehenge on the longest day of the year, police said that they had made 30 arrests after a night in which they acted to prevent an occupation of the monument on the summer solstice. Two people were arrested for possession of drugs, 18 for breaches of the peace, and ten for breaches of orders banning processions and trespass.

Security grants

The Government yesterday handed out £17 million of grants for security cameras in schools, community centres and high streets. Schools are rated a priority after the Dunblane massacre in March and the fatal stabbing last December of Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster. The individual awards range from £3,000 to £250,000.

Champion again

Steve Howe, 34, a systems engineer, is The Times Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year for the second consecutive year. He beat 11 finalists in tests of skill and observation at Silverstone, and was presented with his award last night by Steven Norris, minister for road safety. Richard Crow of the Pfizer pharmaceutical company was second.

Self-confident Euro Minister who believes in his destiny

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE chubby face of David Davis has always shone out among the drab ranks of middle-aged, middle-ranking, male ministers. Since he came to the House nine years ago, observers — and Mr Davis himself — have been convinced it wouldn't be long before he was wielding power at the Cabinet table.

Brought up in working class South London and still bearing the scar on his upper lip from a crowbar attack in Brixton, Mr Davis combines sharp determination with guile and charm. The Minister of State at the Foreign Office can be as straight-talking as Kenneth Clarke or as obscure as a Brussels technocrat and his colleagues quickly realised that his career comes before all else.

A few Tory grandees even thought of the young Thatcherite as potential Prime Ministerial material for the next Millennium. But the slightly chippy former grammar school boy and self-made businessman has become increasingly agitated

that he will be stuck in the second stream until the general election.

Even worse, if Tony Blair gets in he won't have had the distinction of having had his own department and chauffeur and might have to wait for years for another chance.

Friends say Mr Davis, 47, was infuriated when he discovered that he had not been given Privy Counsellor status in the recent honours list — an indication that he might have been destined for the Cabinet. He frequently points out to colleagues that he hasn't put a foot wrong since becoming MP for Bournemouth in 1987. A skilful behind the scenes operator, he is adept at soothing the Prime Minister's nerves.

The party grassroots like him. His constituency chairman describes him as "immensely lively, self-confident and ebullient and a complete loyalist".

He is "happily married" with three children. His only failure so far has been an inept speech on Europe he gave at the dispatch box last



Davis combines strength with guile and charm

year. An avid Eurosceptic, he was given his present post precisely because his presence would reassure fellow sceptics that the Foreign Office would not sell out British interests.

He is well aware of his own academic abilities and has made it clear to friends that he knows he could do a better job than either Gillian Shephard, Virginia Bottomley or Douglas Hogg. Education is the portfolio he would most like, but he wouldn't say no to Agriculture.

He is also determined to

raise his profile. He showed his mettle to the party for four years in the Whips' office where he was most active during the Maastricht debates.

He also made several enemies among rebels who still see Mr Davis as a soft-spoken bully and a careerist who sacrificed his Eurosceptic principles for ambition. They will be pleased that he might finally put his career on the line.

Leading article, page 25

Lord's to show soccer clash

Continued from page 1
et will also pay its price. Andrew Riant, captain of Preston club near Hitchin, Hertfordshire, said: "We will have a TV in the clubhouse. I have been asked by the team to make sure I win the toss, so that we can bat first and watch the match in the dressing room." Other cricketers have been more far-sighted. Tony Dawe, fixtures secretary of Coldharbour cricket club in Surrey, made sure months ago that there would be no game today. At Lord's, the

MCC will show the match on its giant screens if rain interrupts the third day's Test between England and India, but spectators who want to listen covertly to Wembley on their radios were reminded yesterday that they must have earpieces.

It may be difficult to hail a cab this afternoon, not that many people will wish to. Bob Oddy, secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association representing London black-cab drivers, said: "There won't be much trade, so a lot of

cabbies will stay at home and watch the match."

Some of life's vital strands are, however, expected to proceed as usual. Chelsea Register Office reported that it was fully booked for weddings this afternoon.

Bookmakers reported yesterday that £5 million had already been wagered on the match. William Hill make England 11-8 on to win, and 11-4 on to go through regardless of extra time or penalties.

Euro 96, pages 53-56

Post workers claim victory with strike

By PHILIP BASSETT

UNION leaders last night claimed a success after the first national postal strike for nearly eight years.

Staff will be working overtime today to clear the backlog from the 24-hour strike called by the Communication Workers' Union over pay, productivity and teamworking proposals.

Nearly all letter collection and delivery services were hit

by the strike yesterday, which was strongly supported by sorting and delivery staff. Letterboxes in city centres were sealed and only three of the 85 major sorting offices were open from the start of the strike. The strike did not involve workers at Parcelforce or Post Office Counters, which runs the 20,000 local post offices.

The next 24-hour strike is scheduled to start at noon on Thursday.

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and market...
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Stepfather 'told timid boy to take blame for murder'

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A MAN went on trial for the murder of a teenage girl yesterday, 18 years after his stepson was cleared of the crime. Michael Brookes allegedly ordered his timid stepson Fitzroy to begin the attack then manipulated him into taking all the blame.

The victim, Lynn Siddons, 16, was a neighbour who had become friendly with Fitzroy, then 15. After questioning, the boy confessed to police and was charged with murder.

He was acquitted at Nottingham Crown Court in 1978 after saying that his stepfather instigated the killing and took part. Yesterday Mr Brookes was said to have boasted in a pub to a man who asked him if he committed the murder: "Yes, they will never get me though."

The victim was murdered



Brookes: accused of killing after 18 years

on April 3, 1978, a week before she was to have started work at Derby Co-Operative Society. Anthony Palmer, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that it was Mr Brookes who carried out the killing, leaving her strangled and mutilated body with 43 stab wounds in

bushes beside the Trent and Mersey Canal in Derby. She was found six days later.

"It is our case that he instigated the murder in that he involved the stepson in it, and he killed her by strangling her and at the same time stabbing her repeatedly," he said.

Brookes, now 51 and unemployed, from Cumbria, denies murder. It was alleged that he talked with his stepson about wanting to stab Lynn the day before the murder. Mr Palmer said that he was not only Fitzroy's stepfather, but his constant companion. "By the time he was 15, the defendant exercised a considerable influence over him. Fitzroy looked up to and respected the defendant, and did virtually as he was told," said Mr Palmer.

Lynn, he told the jury, often visited Fitzroy at home, but there was no suggestion of a sexual relationship. On the day of the murder, she and Fitzroy, who was carrying a sheath knife, went to fields near the canal where they walked until they were joined by Mr Brookes, who was carrying a carving knife.

"All three walked towards the canal and then into bushes. Michael Brookes grabbed Lynn round the mouth and neck area and held her tightly. He handed the carving knife to Fitzroy, and shouted at him to stab her," said Mr Palmer.

"Fitzroy did as he was told



Lynn Siddons's family yesterday: from left, her aunt Cynthia Smith, grandmother Florence, uncle Keith Siddons and mother Gail Halford

and stabbed once at Lynn, but the blade broke from the handle. The defendant then ordered Fitzroy to get his sheath knife out and stab Lynn. Fitzroy did as he was ordered, and stabbed her a few times. Then the defendant seized the knife from him and continued to stab Lynn."

Marks from the victim's fingernails showed she tried to pull the killer's hand from her throat. But the 5ft 3in girl, weighing just 75 stone, was simply overpowered and died from strangulation within 20 to 30 seconds, Mr Palmer said.

A post-mortem examination gave the cause of death as strangulation, shock, and haemorrhaging from the stab wounds. The prosecution said that Mr Brookes dragged the body to the canal, immersed her head in the water, then pulled her into bushes. Her clothes had been pulled up to her neck.

Mr Brookes schooled his stepson to tell everyone he and Lynn were walking alone, and that when he came out of the bushes after relieving himself, she had simply vanished. "The defendant warned Fitzroy that

if he told police that he, the defendant, was there during the killing, they would both go to prison for a very long time.

If he, Fitzroy, had done it on his own, he would just go into a home for a couple of years."

Later that evening, Lynn's grandmother, Florence, who raised the girl as her own daughter, became concerned and went to Fitzroy's house, where he duly told her the agreed story, said Mr Palmer. Fitzroy was arrested and taken to the police station where he admitted stabbing Lynn. But because he was a juvenile,

police summoned a responsible adult to be with him during questioning.

Michael Brookes went to the station and was left alone with his stepson three times during the 24-hour interview, at one stage for up to half an hour. Michael Brookes made a witness statement describing Fitzroy as "very timid".

He claimed to have seen Fitzroy and Lynn walking together on the day of the murder, and one of them had waved at him. Later that day, he met Fitzroy walking near the woods alone, and Fitzroy told him Lynn had

gone off to meet a friend. But Mr Palmer said Michael Brookes had no supporting alibi, having claimed to have gone to meet his mother, but not gone into her house because he did not get on with her new husband. Fitzroy stuck to his story for six months, but in October, 1978, a month before his trial, "Fitzroy spoke to the police and implicated the defendant."

Mr Brookes was arrested for murder in Peterborough in July, 1992. The case continues on Monday.



Murder victim Lynn Siddons and her grandmother, Florence, who raised the teenager as her own

Land deal delay robs pensioners of nest-egg

By IAN MURRAY

EIGHT years after accepting an offer for their 23-acre plot, a dwindling group of elderly allotment holders will soon share a £5 million windfall. But in the time since the offer was first made, more than 70 of the 200 original society members have died and the price of the land in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, has fallen by £4 million.

Bill Halford, chairman of the South Leamington New Allotments Society, said: "We have lost nearly 50 shareholders in the last two years alone. I am 83. We are all around the same ages."

"We thought it was going to be a nice little nest-egg. I am almost too old to enjoy spending it now and after all the delays I can't be certain it will ever materialise."

"The wife and I live on the basic state pension of £60 a week. It will be nice to get the money before I die. It has become very frustrating and rather sad."

Delays were caused initially by a dispute among members about how much the land was worth and then by rival claims about who owned some of the plots.

A.C. Lloyd, the developers, who want to build 290 houses on the site, then began lengthy negotiations about access with Warwick District Council. Planning permission is expected to be granted next week. Detailed plans for the entire development will then have to be submitted.

Mafia chief's daughter gets armed guard

By CAROL MIDGLEY

THE 25-year-old daughter of a convicted Mafia general was recommended for extradition to Italy yesterday to face charges of drug trafficking. Armed police guarded Court One at Bow Street Magistrates' in London as Maria Eleanor Merico sat in the dock.

A cordon of police officers surrounded the building amid fears that Mafia hitmen hired by her father, Emilio di Giovanni, would try to spring her from custody.

Ms Merico remained passive as Ronald Bartle, the stipendiary magistrate, told her: "You are committed in custody to await the direction of the Secretary of State with a view to your extradition to Italy."

James Lewis, for the Italian government, said Ms Merico was accused of conspiracy to import and supply controlled drugs into Italy.

More than 100 people are

alleged to be participants in the conspiracy and various trials have already been heard in Italy.

"There was an organised system of importing and trafficking in Italy from Spain and Morocco," said Mr Lewis. He added there were also incidents of Ms Merico being involved in violence.

Ms Merico's father, who married an English woman from Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, is a convicted murderer and firearms and drugs trafficker.

In 1994 Ms Merico, who is married to an Italian, was jailed by Newcastle Crown Court for smuggling £1.6 million of Mafia drugs money across Europe in her four-year-old daughter Lara's cot.

For much of her life she has lived in a council house in Poulton-le-Fylde with her mother where she worked behind the bar at the Golden Bull pub.



Maria Merico and her daughter lived in Lancashire

How to give a blonde a day she'll remember

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

IN CASE you were too busy celebrating the end of National Broccoli Week to notice, yesterday was National Go Home on Time Day. If by chance you stayed late at the office, there are plenty more dates in the year ahead to catch up on.

National Be Nice to Blondes Day — January 17 next year — is one of them. It joins a bizarre list of days jostling for space in the national calendar.

Next Friday, for instance, is National Take Your Dog to Work Day. October 6 is the optimistically named National Day of Courtesy on Britain's Roads. November 23 is Abba Day, while October 31 heralds the alarming Bug Buster Day.

Understanding Headline. Where do they all come from? Mariouise Campbell, sales and marketing manager at Foresight, a "future events information service", said there were no restrictions at all. "I publish anyone's

campaigns no matter how ridiculous, although how successful it is depends on their own publicity."

It took me just a few minutes of discussion and a fax to get Be Nice to Blondes Day fixed for my birthday and into the Foresight directory, competing for attention with 190 other dates. There is no charge for the procedure as journalists, public relations and marketing workers pay Foresight for information in the directory.

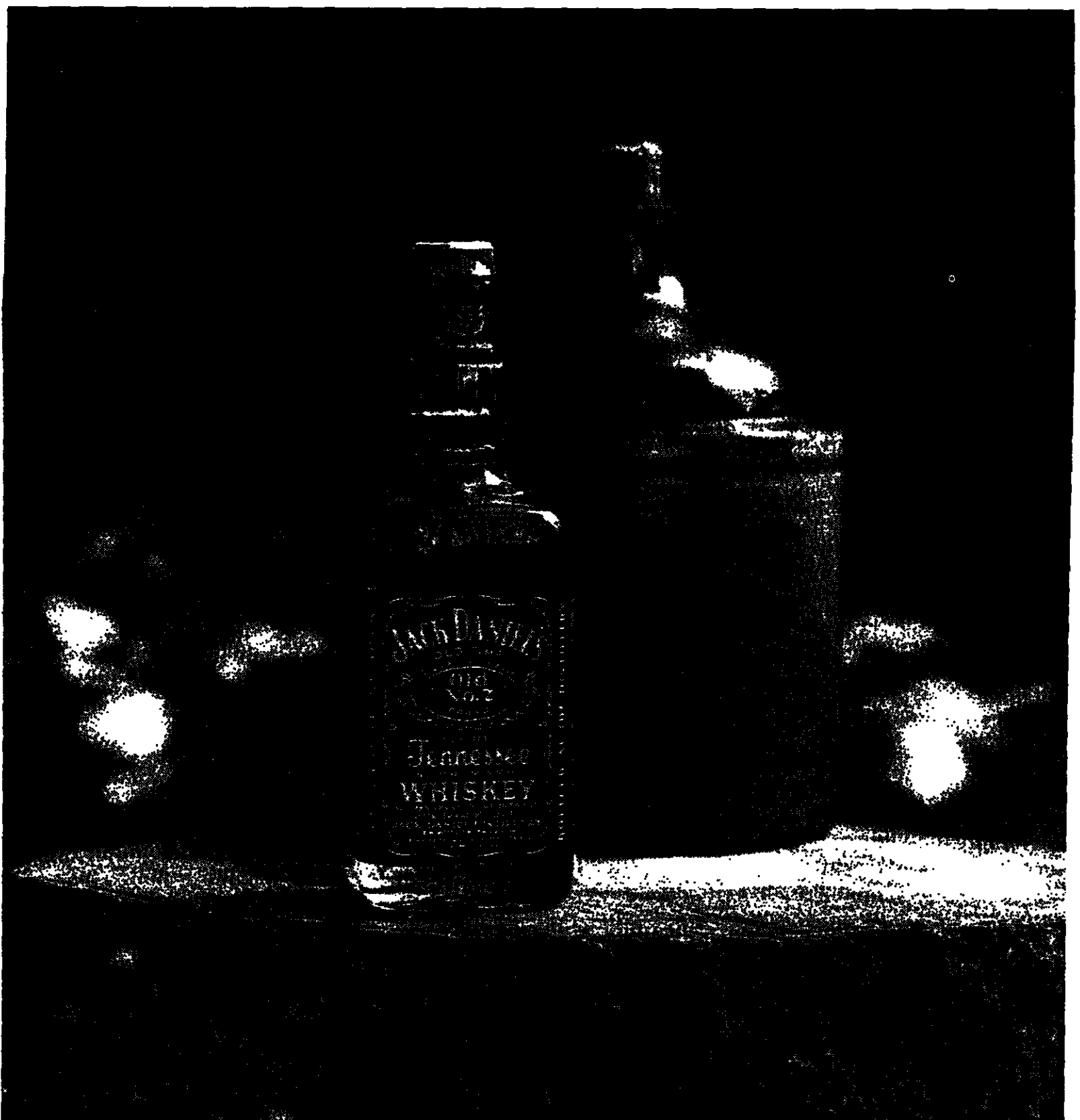
All companies, charities and egotists have to do is post an explanatory paragraph and an appropriate contact number for interested parties. Some select a whole month. September has been appropriated by the British Bathroom Council as National Shower Month. Less frantically, perhaps, cheese makers have nominated a week in September as National Cheese Week.

Prospective self-advertisers need not worry about clashing. In many cases it is actively

encouraged. Thus National Impotence Day sits alongside Valentine's Day on February 14.

Discussing which day to choose for my Be Nice to Blondes, we rejected the greater publicity generated by clashing with National Wonderbra Week in favour of a gloriously blonde day to ourselves. The new date will provide a day for blondes when they "can be assured of charming courtesy and intellectual deference from their darker-haired friends and colleagues". Maintaining it as an annual event will take little effort as Foresight will contact me a couple of months before the date to check I want to go ahead again.

Now it is simply down to my chosen campaign team to promote the day. In the meantime, we can enjoy National Left-Handers Day on August 13 and the Scouting Association's National Woggle Day in October.



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THE TIMES
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Mr and Mrs North

**Neighbour
pond slas
the act on**

By Robin Yocum

A 14-YEAR-old neighbour
yesterday after
was caught on video
making the other's garden
with a homemade pump
Years of festering
came to a head when
Vann put a knife
a pole and slashed
of Derek and Mar
ornamental pond
caught in the act by
camera Mr North
as a security device
The camera dis
Vann sneaking
garden of the North
home in Winton, Coventry
and attacking the pump
three prodding motions
At Coventry Magistrate
Court yesterday Vann
Massey Ferguson
plant worker, pleaded guilty
causing criminal damage
was conditionally discharged
for 12 months and ordered
pay £100 compensation
£40 costs
Melanie Walters
prosecution, said the
North had previously
with Vann over a fence
wall he had built
creaked on their garden
When Mr North and
wife returned from the
ten November, they
the water in their garden
had disappeared. Vann
played back the
from the camera
bedroom, they saw Vann
tearing their garden
pump, his knife
pond three times
David Latham,
said he and the North
not spoken to each other
14 years they had
neighbours, Mr North



The videotape showing Vann

مكتبة الامن الاسلامي

Owner of house in road rage hunt admits Noye link

BY ADRIAN LEE AND JOANNA BALE

THE owner of a house which is linked to the "road rage" killing of Stephen Cameron admitted yesterday that he knew Kenneth Noye, the Brink's-Mat robber, whom police want to trace.

The property dealer Peter Horton's Dartford company Fort Knight owns the semi-detached in Bexley, southeast London, which was used as an address to register a Land Rover Discovery that might have been used by the killer.

Mr Horton said that although he had met Mr Noye on several occasions, Mr Noye had no connections with the house that he knew of.

The Discovery registration L794 JTF that police want to trace was registered at the house in Bexley under the name Anthony Francis. Mr Noye used the alias Anthony Francis while he was handling the proceeds of the £26 million Brink's-Mat gold bullion robbery during the 1980s. He was freed from a 14-year prison sentence for his part in the laundering of the gold in 1994.

Mr Horton said yesterday: "Everybody around here knows Ken Noye. I have met him on occasion but we are acquaintances rather than friends." He knew no one called Anthony Francis.



Noye: police in M25 case want to speak to him

The house had been let to two women who left in May.

Kent police emphasised that Mr Horton had co-operated fully and was in no way implicated.

Police will only say they want to eliminate Anthony Francis from their enquiries, and that they also want to speak to Mr Noye, 47, who is rumoured to have left the country the day after the killing on the M25 slip-road in Swanley, Kent on May 19.

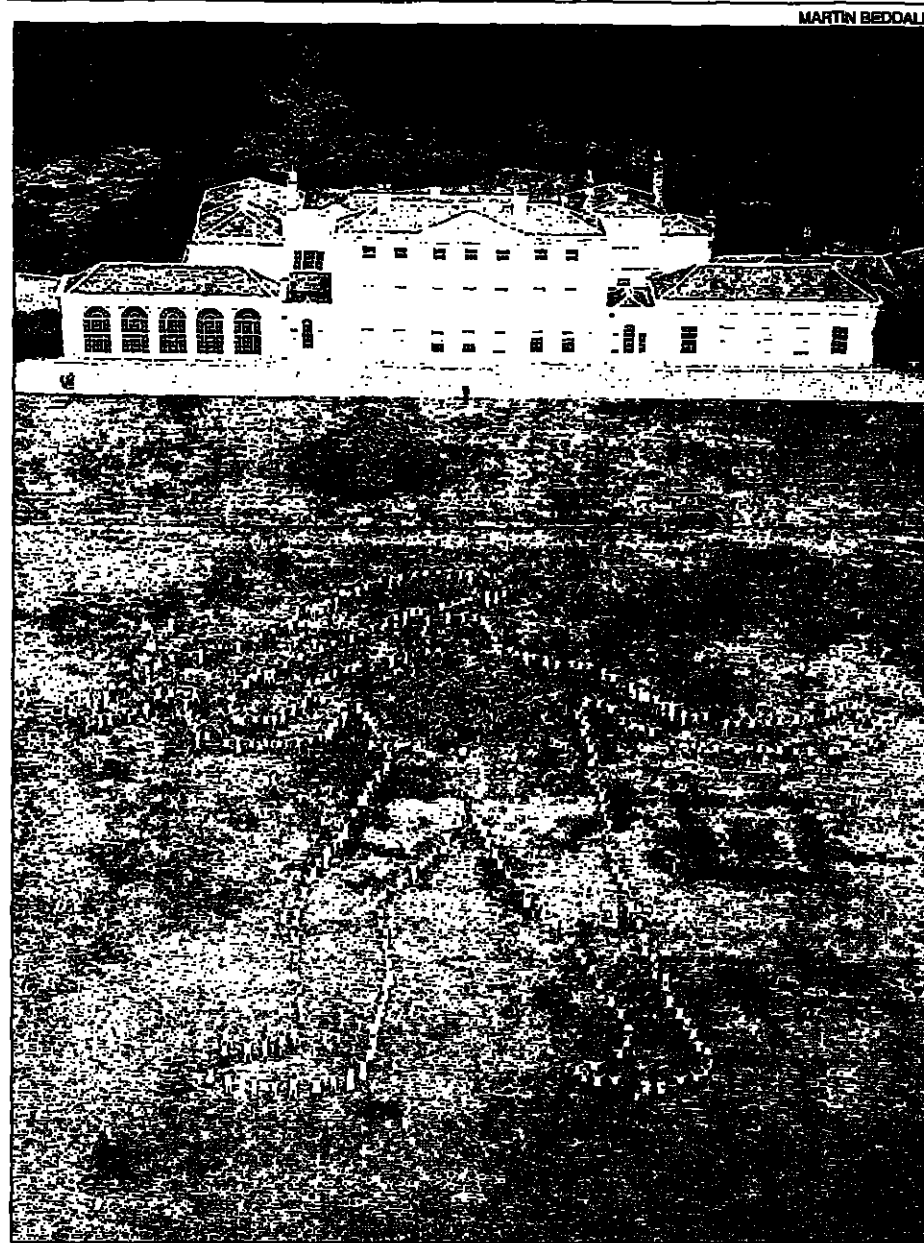
He is said to have been in Spain, northern Cyprus and Tenerife but there have been

no confirmed sightings. One police source said yesterday: "He has a lot of friends in far-flung corners of the world, and a lot of money. He must know we want to question him."

Mr Noye's wife Brenda has told police that she and her husband, who have a home in Sevenoaks, Kent, lead separate lives, and that she does not know his whereabouts.

Mr Noye, once a printer's apprentice, became a multi-millionaire businessman. Brought up in a council house in Bexleyheath, he left school at 15 without qualifications, but within five years he was on his way to his first million. He worked evenings and weekends, driving tipper-trucks and selling programmes at race-tracks to earn his first £1,000 to buy land and build a bungalow. Business boomed when he started a haulage firm, investing profits in property speculation and dabbling in the stock market.

His rise was not without brushes with the law. He was sent to Borstal for receiving stolen cars and later fined for shoplifting and assault on a policeman. In 1977 he was given an 18-month suspended sentence for receiving and possessing a shotgun. In 1980, he began illegal gold-dealing.



A thousand children recreating the giant at Kenwood House in north London and, above, the real thing at Cerne Abbas in Dorset

Giant takes heart but loses vital part of anatomy

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THERE is no prize offered for spotting the missing member in a manoeuvre enacted yesterday by more than a thousand schoolchildren in aid of an appeal to raise £1.5 million for heart and lung research.

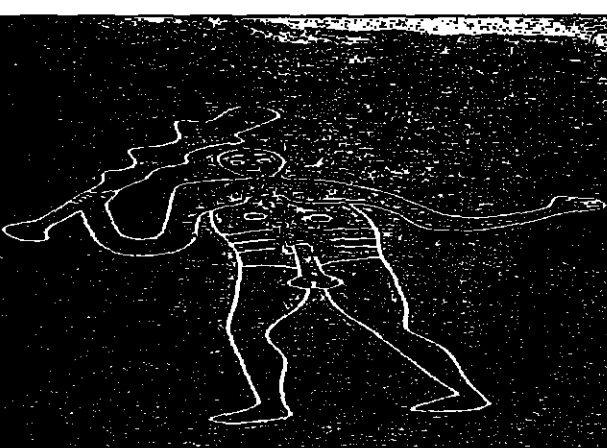
Dressed in red and blue T-shirts and holding coloured balloons, the children gathered in front of Kenwood House in north London to recreate the image of the Cerne Abbas giant, a prehistoric chalk figure cut into a Dorset hillside.

Under the direction of Jon Bunker, maker of the Hat-fax Building Society's television commercials, some

300 youngsters then changed position to give the giant a "heart". While gaining a heart, though, the figure was deprived of another important organ that has made the Dorset version a potent symbol for centuries.

A spokeswoman for the Royal Brompton Hospital's Heart of Britain appeal said: "We had to eradicate that part of the giant entirely. It might have offended the children, or, if not them, their teachers."

The bowdlerised image the children created was photographed from the air for use in a book made of entries in a photographic competition illustrating the "heart of the nation".



Mr and Mrs North and the pond Vann attacked

Neighbours catch pond slasher in the act on camera

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A 14-YEAR feud between neighbours ended in court yesterday after one of them was caught on videotape sabotaging the others' garden pond with a home-made spear.

Years of festering animosity came to a head when Ronald Vann put a knife on the end of a pole and slashed the lining of Derek and Marion North's ornamental pond. He was caught in the act by the video camera Mr North had set up as a security device.

The camera clearly showed Vann sneaking into the garden of the Norths' £75,000 home in Whitley, Coventry, and attacking the pond with three prodding movements.

At Coventry Magistrates' Court yesterday Vann, 49, a Massey Ferguson tractor plant worker, pleaded guilty to causing criminal damage. He was conditionally discharged for 12 months and ordered to pay £180 compensation and £40 costs.

Melanie Watters, for the prosecution, said that Mr North had previously argued with Vann over a boundary wall he had built that encroached on their garden.

When Mr North and his wife returned from the cinema last November, they noticed the water in their garden pond had disappeared. When they played back the videotape from the camera mounted in a bedroom, they saw Vann entering their garden and putting his knife into their pond three times.

David Latham, for Vann, said he and the Norths had not spoken to each other in the 14 years they had lived as neighbours. Mr North had



Vann: regretted actions

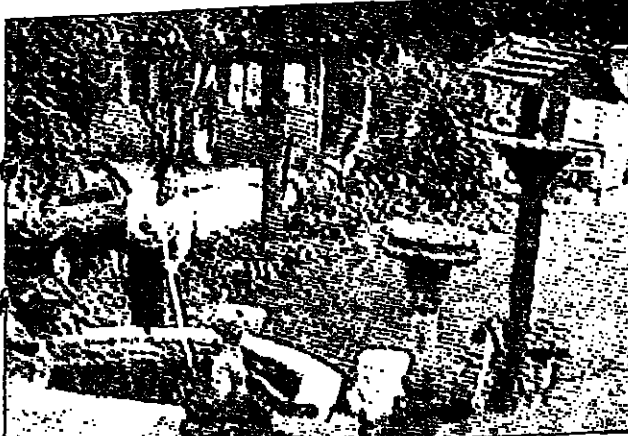
complained about Vann working on cars in his garden, and Vann had had to deal with Inland Revenue, environmental health and city council inspectors as a result.

He had finally seen red when he received a letter about the dispute over the garden boundary. Vann regretted what he had done.

The stipendiary magistrate, William Probert, told Vann: "This was not only a neighbourly dispute but a mean and spiteful act. There is nothing worse I can imagine between neighbours."

After the case Mr North, 65, said: "Essentially, we do not want anything to do with this man, but we cannot make him move and we have no intention of fleeing the scene either."

Vann claimed his neighbours had three video cameras trained on his movements. The Norths said they had installed a camera after Vann had chopped a large Christmas tree which overhung his garden.



The videotape showing Vann slashing the pond

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Girl, 5, stu
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By KATHRYN
A GIRL aged five was
nearly a hundred times
she disturbed a man
Manila New was
by thousands of her
rolled down a steep
near her school
Hereford and Worcester
received 40 stings
alone
Her classmates
Haddock's first
watched in horror as Ma
ran screaming to the
edge. Gail Walsh, her
was stung more than
times as she went to
rescue
Ms Walsh, 47, said
her "worst nightmare"
children were
morning rowing
boat on the River
were allowed to
slope as they
Matilda rolled over
concealing the bee
"They flew up
rounded her and I

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World guide lists Eston, Teesside, alongside Taj Mahal but says: Wish you weren't here

Town fights back over infamy on the Internet

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SMALL town was startled by world fame after finding itself on an Internet travel section which also features the Taj Mahal and the Pyramids. But the surprise turned to anger yesterday when residents read the entry in the Knowhere Guide.

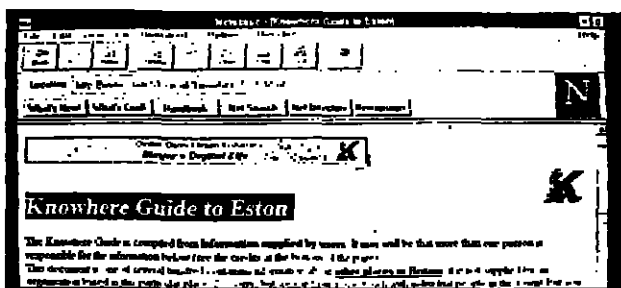
In one of the most dismissive, high-tech tourist entries since *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* summarised planet Earth as "mostly harmless", the worldwide web page for Eston, Teesside, advises potential visitors: "The only good thing about Eston is the No 263 bus, because it's a link to the outside world."

Instead of listing the imposing Eston Nab, a promontory of the Cleveland Hills jutting out above the area which holds one of the earliest Bronze Age sites in Britain, the piece prefers to mention the neighbouring ICI petrochemical site, sprawling over hundreds of acres at Wilton. It describes the plant on the south bank of the Tees as the worst thing about Eston.

The guide also warns that although the town (population 16,000) has many public houses, "they are a little dingy and you will probably end up getting into a fight. If you don't live in Eston/Redcar/



Life in the bus lane: The only good thing is the No 263 to the outside world' says the entry, below



Middlesbrough, don't venture into any of the pubs if you want to come back out alive. With its high unemployment, this place attracts yobs (although it does have a small percentage of decent folk).

A section on clubs mentions only the renowned North Ormesby Institute — "if you can get signed in" — where the beer is cheap. A section on famous citizens is blank. The listing has not im-

pressed Brian Roberts, leader of the newly created Redcar and Cleveland authority, which includes Eston. A local resident for 53 years, he said: "It's ill-conceived and mischievous. The author does not know what he's talking about. The people are very friendly, the pubs are well run and won't stand for trouble, and ICI causes less air pollution than cars on the roads."

"Eston is a very nice place to

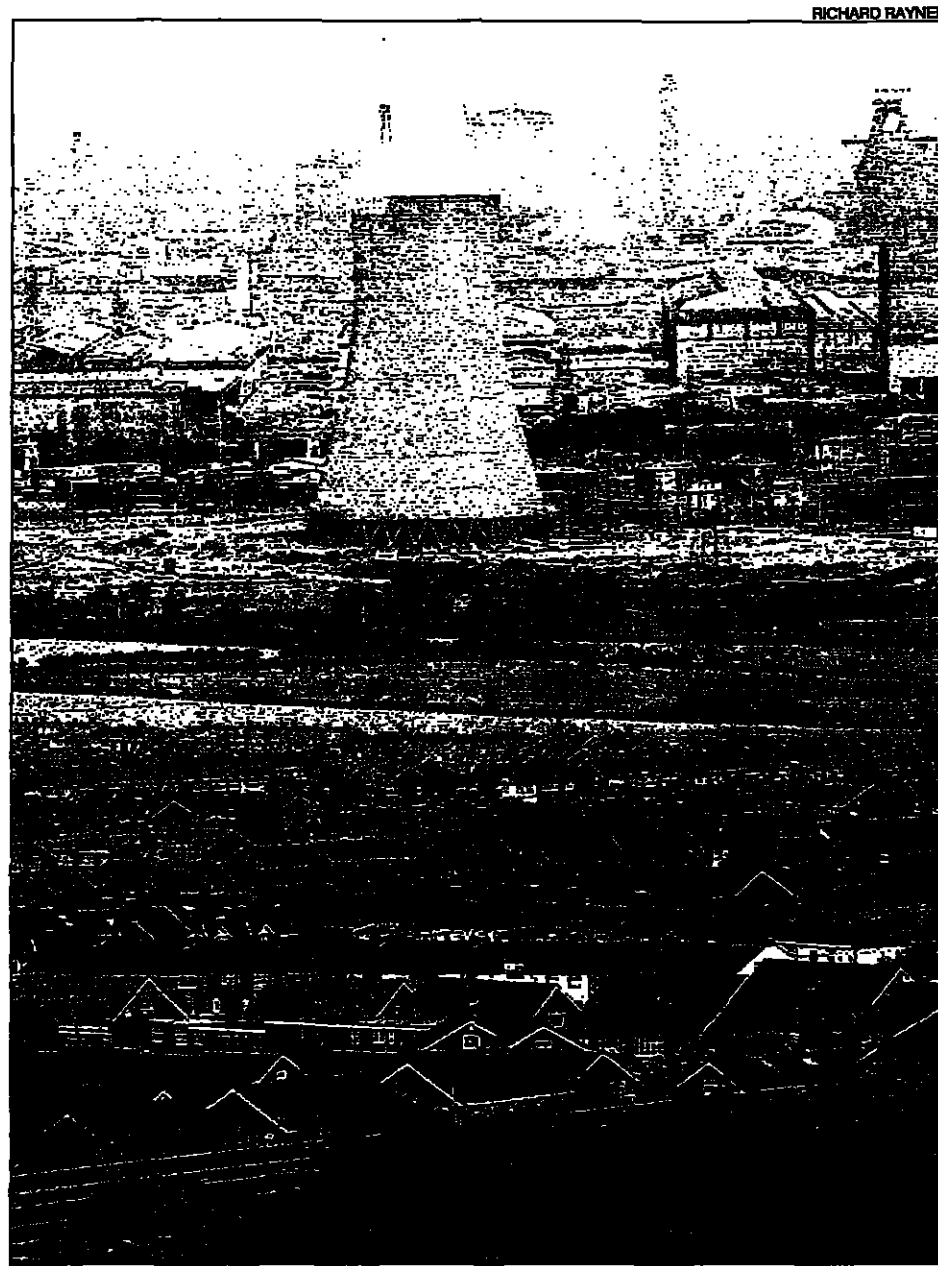
live and is just a stone's throw from the North Yorkshire countryside and minutes from the Cleveland coastline."

David Walsh, a fellow councillor, was even more outspoken: "Whoever compiled this is an anorak nerd. Eston is a lovely place, a canny town filled with canny people."

Dawn Robson, landlady of the Miners Arms — which gets a mention — was also unimpressed by the anonymous entry. She said: "If I found it was one of my regulars they would be barred. We have no trouble here and the people are the nicest you could meet."

Even ICI was upset. A spokesman at Wilton said: "Comments such as these are clearly borne out of ignorance of the very real improvements which have taken place in recent years. I am sure that the people of Teesside will be annoyed by these claims."

Eston was originally a Saxon settlement, based on iron ore mining in the Cleveland Hills. The first guide to the area 900 years ago, William the Conqueror's *Domesday Book*, described it as "a waste", but that was mostly because his nobles had put the region to the sword after a northern rebellion. Its industrial development began early in the last century when drift mines were opened to extract iron and alum. To access the Knowhere Guide enter: www.state51.co.uk/knowhere



Not quite the Pyramids: the ICI plant "within smelling distance of Eston"

Boy of 4 suffers for mushroom feast

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOY of four suffered severe hallucinations and panic attacks after eating a crop of "magic" mushrooms in a field near his home.

Daniel Billington, of Stockport, Greater Manchester, imagined hordes of worms crawling over his body and flying around his head. Several days later, he still has panic attacks and picks imaginary worms out of his shoes.

His mother, Diane, said that Daniel was attracted to the crop because he enjoyed eating cooked mushrooms at home. He was taken to hospital and doctors diagnosed some kind of poison. It was only after Daniel pointed to wild mushrooms later that his mother realised what had happened.

Dr David Pegler, assistant keeper and head of mycology at Kew Gardens, said that of 4,500 wild species of mushrooms in Britain, only 50 were edible. "The boy probably ate a Liberty Cap, which contains the Class A drug psilocin. They look like small brown toadstools, with long slender stems around three inches long."

He said these mushrooms were prolific, particularly between June and September.

"Parents must take great care, as summer is the dangerous time. While they are not usually fatal in themselves, they may leave after-effects and are bewildering for a small child."

Girl, 5, stung 90 times after disturbing nest of bees

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A GIRL aged five was stung nearly a hundred times when she disturbed a nest of bees.

Matilda New was covered by thousands of bees as she rolled down a grassy bank near her school at Bredon, Hereford and Worcester. She received 40 stings on one leg alone.

Her classmates at Bredon Haddocks First School watched in horror as Matilda ran screaming to the river's edge. Gail Walsh, her teacher, was stung more than a dozen times as she went to her rescue.

Ms Walsh, 47, said it was her "worst nightmare". The children were spending the morning rowing in the school boat on the River Avon. Some were allowed to roll down the slope as they waited their turn. Matilda rolled over a hollow concealing the bees.

"They flew up and surrounded her and I heard her



Matilda: she is lucky to be alive, say doctors

screaming as she jumped up. All I could see was that she was absolutely covered in black. She must have been absolutely terrified," Ms Walsh said.

After shouting at the other children to flee, she pulled Matilda to the water's edge and was able to stroke the

bees off. "As soon as one went, they all did. But by then she had about 90 stings on her body and legs and more on her head." Two other children were mildly stung.

Matilda was taken to the village health centre and given anti-histamine injections before going to Cheltenham General Hospital, where she was kept overnight.

Yesterday her mother, Rachel, said Matilda was recovering well but needed further hospital tests. "When I first saw her I was shocked that someone so small could be stung so many times and be alive. She was very weak and pale, very quiet but very brave."

Matilda said: "I was really frightened. The doctors and nurses told me I was a very lucky girl not to be worse."

The poison unit at Guy's Hospital, London, said that more than 50 bee stings could cause severe bodily reactions and were potentially lethal.

WHAT HELPED WIN THE MOTABILITY CONTRACT WAS OUR STAFF. NOT JUST THEIR SKILLS, BUT THEIR POSITIVE ATTITUDE

It takes a special kind of insurance company to rise to the challenge of the special needs of disabled drivers. So how did Motability, the charity that supplies cars to the disabled, choose who to cover all 250,000 of their vehicles (the largest fleet contract in Europe), not to mention their own very special requirements?

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"The way the local workforce had adapted to dealing direct gave us the confidence to look at opportunities such as Motability."

Telecommunications technology? That was easy. Merseyside has just about the most advanced system in Europe, and with the telecom-trained staff to go with it. But it was the staff of the Royal Insurance that tipped the balance. Not just their skills, but their attitude.

Every staff member on the Motability project went on a disability awareness course (which included negotiating Liverpool City Centre in a wheelchair) to give them the right level of understanding when talking directly on the phone to a disabled claimant, co-ordinating things like garage repairs and emergency transport.

"For Motability, fully comprehensive meant more than just policy cover - it meant handling the special needs of disabled drivers. Our Merseyside staff rose to that challenge."

Adaptability and enthusiasm have been the watchwords of Merseyside for a generation. The clerical skills developed by companies like Royal Insurance and Littlewoods 20 years ago are now the telephone skills of today's generation using state of the art equipment.

And look at some of the other companies investing on Merseyside - Kodak, Ford, Barclays and oil and gas exploration company, BHP.

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But in the end what makes Merseyside truly unique is the element that swayed Motability. The premium difference was the people.



TONY WALKLING HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER, ROYAL INSURANCE

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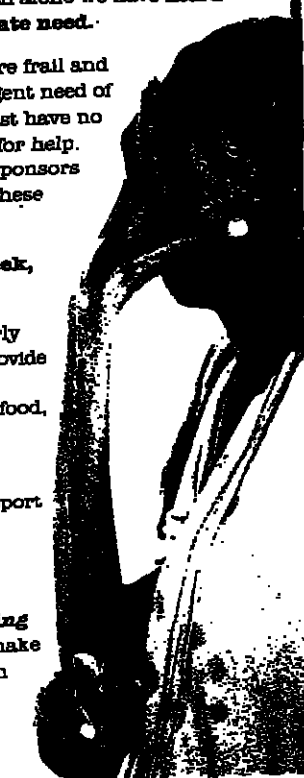
Many of these people are frail and destitute. Some are in urgent need of medical attention. Yet most have no families they can turn to for help. And if we don't find 600 sponsors for them - soon some of these grants could die.

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MG lovers exceed list price for used cars

By DIANA THORP

EAGER buyers are paying thousands of pounds over the list price for secondhand models of the MGF to beat waiting lists for the sports car. Two motorists paid £2,500 extra for used versions of the car this week, the first new MGF for more than 25 years, rather than wait for a new model.

More than 2,400 customers are awaiting delivery of a new MGF, and overseas demand is high. Dealers said yesterday that the popularity meant buyers would have had to wait up to six months for delivery.

Clive Sutton, an MG dealer in Kensington, has sold his stock of new MGFs for this year and bought 14 used cars at auction last week. The secondhand cars went to dealers for up to 15 per cent more than the list price of new models, between £18,000 and £19,000. But Mr Sutton sold two of the cars, with 6,000 and 7,000 miles on the clock, for £20,950. He said: "Before we went to the auction we took some deposits from customers prepared to buy the cars subject to seeing them."

Alan Cole, editor of *Glass's Guide*, the price directory, said that it was unprecedented for secondhand versions of a mainstream model to sell at more than the new price.

Rover said the production of three other cars that will share the MGF's 1.8-litre engine had been postponed for a year so that production of the sports car could be increased.

Festival of speed, Car 96

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Seven arrests after police raid on IRA bomb factory

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

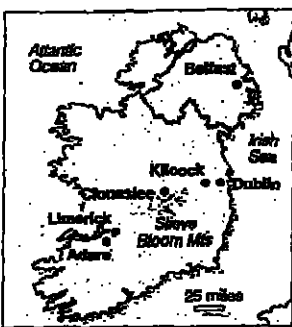
POLICE in Ireland have raided a large IRA bomb factory after a tip-off from members of the public appalled at recent atrocities including the murder of an Irish policeman.

At least 12 mortars — possibly containing explosives — and timing devices and electrical components were found on Wednesday evening in farm buildings one mile outside Clonaslee, Co Laois, a town at the foot of the Slieve Bloom mountains. Police said it was one of the largest ever finds and "very significant".

A source in the Garda said the officers discovered an IRA unit manufacturing a mortar bomb. One man at the scene produced a handgun as the detectives entered, but was quickly overpowered.

Last night it was disclosed that an underground bunker had been discovered in the same area.

The raid is regarded as evidence of a public backlash



against the IRA after the murder two weeks ago of Detective Garda Jerry McCabe. The IRA acknowledged that he murdered Mr McCabe as he escorted a mail van in Adare, Co Limerick.

The public response to an appeal for information was the largest ever, police said. Twenty-one people have been questioned about the murder of Mr McCabe. Three have been charged with IRA membership and illegal possession of arms and ammunition. A

further three are in police custody.

After the raids, seven men were arrested and were being questioned yesterday under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act in police stations in Dublin and Laois.

The revelation of the bomb factory followed a four-day stake-out of the premises. Police backed by the Emergency Response Unit entered the building shortly after 7pm. Three men were arrested on the premises; the remainder were arrested in the neighbouring region and in Dublin. Police then raided a factory in the Ballymount industrial estate in west Dublin. It is understood that metal components used in the mortars were made in the factory.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, congratulated the police and thanked the public for their co-operation. He said that the discovery of the bomb factory contradicted



The farm near the village of Clonaslee, Co Laois, where a large IRA bomb factory was found by police. Seven people have been arrested

Sinn Féin's claims that it accepted the Mitchell principles for all-party negotiations, which rule out the threat of force. "How one can reconcile not threatening force with manufacturing bombs, I don't know, and it would be important therefore to discover what is the attitude of the republicans to movement on the use of force at this time."

"If you have people actually manufacturing bombs, actually involved in bank raids, actually involved in igniting bombs in Manchester, whether or not Sinn Féin supports the armed struggle of that

kind is not an academic question, it is a very practical question of life and death," Mr Bruton said.

The last discovery of an IRA arms factory was in 1992 in Kilscock, Co Meath, when timer units, under-car bombs and incendiary devices were discovered. One of those involved is one of the chief IRA bomb-makers and is currently serving a five-year prison term. Two years ago, 12 mortars were found in a bog in Co Longford, where they were being stored.

John Grigg, page 24

Public rings in with possible sightings of Manchester pair

POLICE hunting the Manchester bombers have received nearly 2,000 calls from the public, Colin Phillips, Assistant Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said there had been possible sightings of the two hooded men who parked the truck containing the bomb in the city centre last Saturday.

Police are also analysing information about the Ford

Cargo truck's journey to the city from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, where it was bought the day before. Mr Phillips said he was delighted with the response from the force's appeal for help in tracing the bombers. Many calls had also been received about the baby-faced Irishman who handed over the £2,000 to buy the truck to a Peterborough cab driver.

Troops drafted in for Orange rally in Catholic area

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ARMED troops and police mounted a massive security operation in Belfast last night amid fears of clashes between nationalists and loyalists at an Orange parade.

More than 1,000 RUC officers and troops were drafted into the Roman Catholic Cliftonville area of north Belfast after police gave approval for more than 800 Orangemen to march through the district. The RUC said that only members of the Orange Order would be allowed to march along the traditional route through the Catholic area, and insisted that loyalist supporters of the marchers would be forbidden.

The police decision drew an angry response from nationalists in the area, who staged a demonstration against the Orange parade. John Fleming, the spokesman for the Cliftonville/Antrim Road Concerned Residents' Association, said: "The RUC seem determined to force this blatantly sectarian march upon our communities."

The SDLP also criticised the decision to allow the march to pass through the Catholic area. However, Nelson McCausland, an Ulster Unionist councillor in North Belfast, welcomed the RUC

decision and criticised nationalists for trying to block the event.

Last night's parade was one of the largest Orange parades in this year's loyalist marching season, with Orangemen from 35 Lodges in north Belfast taking part. The biannual parade through hardline loyalist and republican areas is known as the Tour of the North.

There are fears that serious disturbances could break out during this year's marching season, in the light of the IRA's renewed terrorist campaign. The worst flashpoint is expected to be in July at a parade in Drumcree, on the outskirts of Portadown, Co Armagh, where loyalists clashed with the police last year.

The Northern Ireland Forum yesterday condemned last Saturday's IRA bombing of Manchester. The nine political parties at the forum sent a message of sympathy to the victims of the blast. Sinn Féin does not attend.

The second meeting of the forum was dominated by differences over its procedures. The session adjourned within minutes of opening after a member of the Alliance Party sat in a place allocated to the SDLP.

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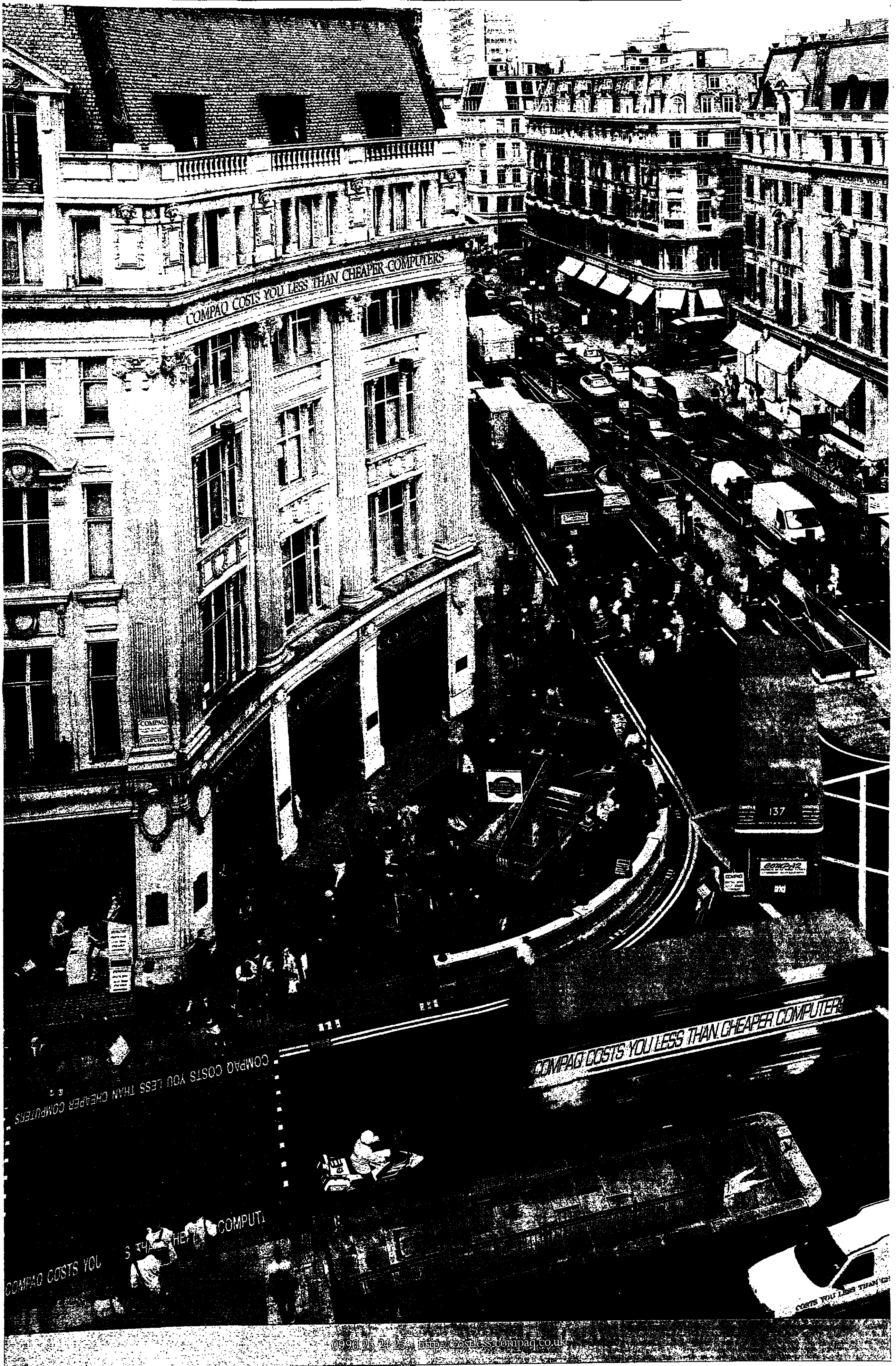
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Lottery winner learns value of freedom

By CAROL MIDGLEY

LEE RYAN, the car thief who won £6.5 million on the National Lottery, left prison yesterday, announcing that his nine-month stretch behind bars had done him good and that money was no longer crucial to his life.

Mr Ryan, 32, who was met at the gates of Stafford Prison by his wife Karen and three children in the family Bentley (registration LEE 4) said he had been able to take stock of his life and assess his priorities.

Dressed in cream trousers and top, Mr Ryan said: "It has done me a good favour, going to prison. It gave me an insight into what it's all about again. Money is not the be-all and end-all — it's family."

"Good fortune isn't necessarily money — everyone who has good health has good fortune. It made me come down to the lowest common denominator. I now feel I could live on nothing."

Seven months after his windfall in February last year Mr Ryan was sentenced to 18 months in prison after being found guilty of handling three stolen cars. The



Lee Ryan leaving prison yesterday, without the usual £30 for departing inmates

court was told that he and an accomplice were involved in shipping cars to Malta before selling them on.

During a 15-year life of crime Mr Ryan lived on the Braunstone council estate in Leicester. He has now moved to a £1 million mansion set in 40 acres in Osbaston, Leicestershire.

Despite huge publicity he was undaunted by the jail sentence after spending many years of his life in

prison. Yesterday as he stepped into the sunshine — without the customary £30 given to released prisoners — Mr Ryan said: "I've been in jail before, since the age of 17. I know the ropes in there. The money aspect wasn't hard, but I'm used to open spaces. The first few days when the door banged were very hard — the claustrophobia."

There was camaraderie in there. There are some good friends in there and I will see them again."

As he walked towards the car, Mr Ryan, 36, sprang from her seat to hug him. His children followed. The family are planning a small party to celebrate.

Mr Ryan said that although he obviously did not want to return to jail, he could never rule it out. "You can never say never — something might happen, but it is not my wish."

The Government was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords. The new regulations will not apply until the matter

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government suffered another humiliating defeat at the hands of the judiciary yesterday when the Court of Appeal ruled that it acted illegally in cutting welfare benefits to asylum seekers.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, was accused of exceeding his powers when he introduced benefit changes designed to save about £200 million a year.

In some of the strongest language heard from the judiciary, Lord Justice Simon Brown said the withdrawal of benefits could cause destitution among asylum seekers which no civilised state could tolerate. He added: "I would hold it unlawful to alter the benefit regime so drastically as must inevitably not merely prejudice, but on occasion defeat, the statutory right of asylum seekers to claim refugee status."

By a two-one majority, the court upheld an appeal by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants which claimed that the regulations introduced at the beginning of February were unlawful. The council had brought the case on behalf of Miss B, aged 25, who fled to Britain after being imprisoned by security forces in Zaire.

The Government was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords. The new regulations will not apply until the matter

Judges condemn Lilley for asylum benefit cuts



Lord Justice Simon Brown, left, said that Peter Lilley's measures would cause destitution



number of asylum seekers of the basic means of sustaining life itself, have the effect of rendering their ostensible statutory right to a proper consideration of their claims in this country valueless in practice by making it not merely difficult but impossible for them to remain here to pursue those claims. The answer to the question, when it is so expressed, can only, in my view, be yes."

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants argued that the measure put Britain in breach of its obligations to refugees under the 1951 Geneva Convention and contravened the 1989 Children Act and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Roger Evans, a junior Social Security Minister, said ministers would not abandon their drive to curb benefit payments to those it believed were economic migrants rather than genuine asylum seekers. "Over 90 per cent of those people who come here claiming persecution and asylum are ultimately found to be spurious applicants. They are taking advantage of the most generous welfare system in the world."

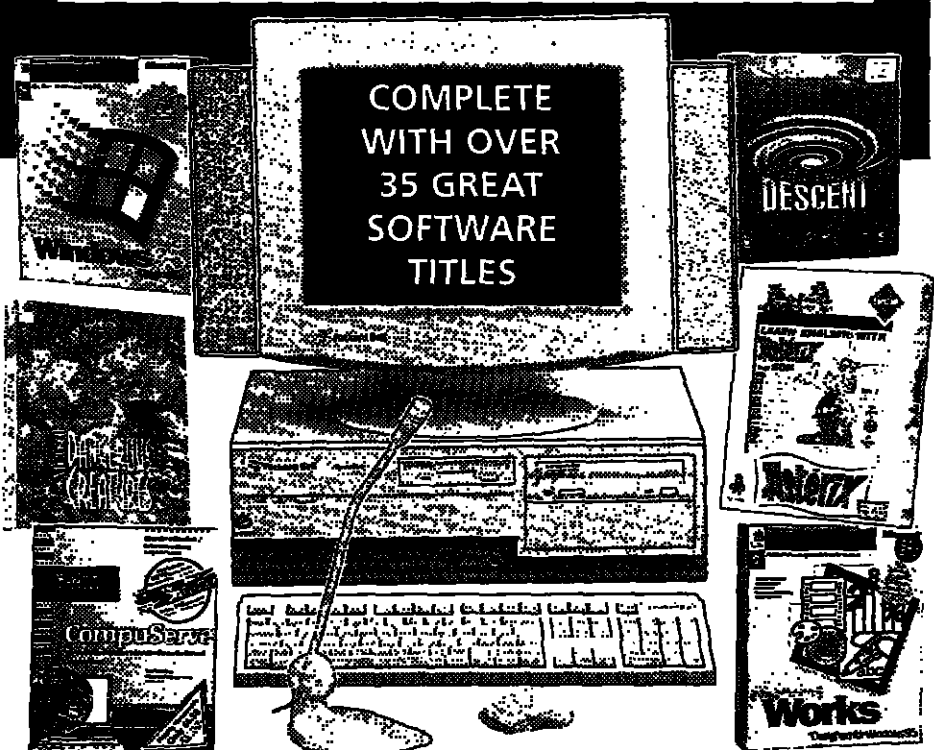
Ms B, 25, said after the case: "Hopefully I will be able to apply for housing benefit and income support. If everything goes well for me, it means everything will be all right for the rest of the refugees."

Leading article, page 25

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Campaign to save 18th-century tables

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

HERITAGE groups need to raise £1 million to save a pair of princely tables for the nation and return them to Chiswick, the English Palladian house for which they were designed in 1730.

The tables, with jewelled marble tops supported by golden neo-symphic Venus shells and garlands of Jupiter's sacred oak, were commissioned by Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington, for the Roman villa. They will be auctioned at Christie's on July 3. The sellers are the executors and trustee of the residue funds of the late 3rd Marquess of Bute, who died in 1993.

William Kent, the architect and interior designer, looked for inspiration to Homer's *Odyssey*, which had been translated by Pope, in designing the King's Gallery at Kensington Palace and the Chiswick tables.

John Hardy, consultant to Christie's furniture department, said the tables were essential to Chiswick's archi-

ecture. He explained that Lord Burlington led the movement to promote the "arts and architecture of Ancient Rome". The carving is attributed to John Boscawen and Giovanni Battista Guelfi.

A spokeswoman for English Heritage, which owns the property, said: "These tables are of world-class importance and we would dearly love to see them restored to Chiswick House. We are conscious that the usual grant-giving bodies are under a lot of pressure."

George Levy, a trustee of the London Historic House Museums Trust, said: "They ought to go back to Chiswick and remain in the country for the house for which they were made. Ultimately, there'll be a case for the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the National Art Collections Fund and the London Historic House Museums Trust to support whatever application comes in from English Heritage."

Letters, page 25

Helpful Advice From Dr Vernon Coleman

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Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my book will be able to help you. You can try my advice without risk - if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it to me within 28 days of receipt for a full refund. See box below for details of how to order.

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Swindler who loved luxury ordered to forfeit his assets after biggest cross-Channel smuggling case

Jailed beer bootlegger must lose £3m fortune

By PETER FOSTER

THE mastermind of the biggest cross-Channel bootlegging operation, which cost the Inland Revenue £5 million in lost VAT and duty, was jailed for six years yesterday and ordered to surrender his riches.

Ellis Martin, 47, who smuggled nearly nine million cans of extra-strong lager, will serve a further four years in jail if he does not repay the £3.3 million he is estimated to have made from the contraband operation.

He was sentenced to six years and ten months by the Old Bailey yesterday, after being convicted in April on five charges of evading duty and VAT. Making the order for confiscation of assets, Judge Pearlman said she did not accept Martin's claim that he had only £1.3 million in realisable assets.

The father of two, who used a front company and forged paperwork to flood the country with super-strength lager,



Ellis Martin was captured by Operation Jeroboam. His girlfriend, Julie Court, was acquitted.



had a string of luxury cars and properties. At his trial at Southwark Crown Court the jury was told that he had paid £100,000 in cash for two Mercedes sports cars and £1 million for five properties including his house in Southgate, north London.

Other properties, including a wine bar, two houses which

he let and a warehouse, were used to launder the large sums Martin made from selling the beer to cash-and-carry outlets. He was caught by a joint undercover operation by English and French police and Customs and Excise investigators. They worked under the name Operation Jeroboam.

During the 11-week trial,

estimated to have cost the taxpayer £2 million, the court was told that Martin ran an import and export company called E.A. Martin & Co Ltd, based in Dagenham, east London. Describing himself as a commodity broker, Martin specialised in buying soft drinks and beers from abroad and selling them in the home market. A front company was set up in Calais to create thousands of pages of bogus documentation to avoid payment of British import duty, which is ten times that of France. By the time of his arrest in June 1994, 200 lorry loads of beer had been smuggled.

James White, 49, a manager of a bonded warehouse in Kent, pretended that the beer was destined for his warehouse when in reality it was to be sold to cash-and-carrys. Last month White, of High Halstow, Kent, was jailed for four years for his part in what Judge Pearlman called a "massive" fraud. He had £20,000 confiscated and was



Part of Martin's haul of nine million cans of extra-strength lager, which cost the Inland Revenue £5 million

banned from being a company director for seven years.

Martin carried out the main beer fraud in 1993-94 while he was on bail awaiting sentence for an earlier offence of avoiding £180,000 of VAT and excise duty on soft drinks and beer. For that offence he was given a 240-hour community service order and a £125,000 confiscation order.

Sentencing Martin yesterday, who was banned from being a company director for ten years, Judge Pearlman said he had perpetrated "a quite deliberate fraud on all decent citizens of this country to a massive extent". Refusing to believe claims that his assets totalled only £1.3 million, she said: "I do not accept figures set out by his account-

ants. He received a great deal of money in a very short space of time. I draw the inference that he has assets somewhere under his control."

Martin's girlfriend and personal assistant, Julie Court, 27, of Palmers Green, north London, was cleared at an earlier hearing of charges relating to the preparation of the bogus paperwork.

A Customs and Excise spokesman said afterwards that Martin's trial had been the largest "bootlegging" case brought to court. Martin's extravagant tastes included eating at top restaurants and buying Savile Row suits. "He enjoyed the good life. He was the type of man who lived life to the full," the spokesman said.

Jumbo jet passengers stranded in America

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

MORE than 300 Virgin Atlantic passengers were stranded in San Francisco for more than 48 hours after their Boeing 747 twice developed technical faults.

Flight VS20 had just taken off on Wednesday evening with 360 passengers on board to fly to Heathrow when the pilot reported a problem with the air conditioning and said that it would have to return to San Francisco. By the time the fault had been repaired the crew had exceeded their permitted working hours and Virgin had no option but to check passengers into an hotel.

Virgin found room for 27 business-class passengers on the following day's flight and a few more were switched to rival airlines. Some 320 passengers, however, were stranded.

As the repaired jet was taxiing to the runway that afternoon it suffered a second fault, this time in an engine, and the pilot again had to return to the gate and let off the passengers. They were again put up in an hotel.

Efforts by Virgin Atlantic staff to charter another aircraft in America proved fruitless. Yesterday they were searching for an aircraft in Europe as passengers who had been due in Heathrow at 10.30am on Thursday were still waiting.

A Virgin spokesman said last night: "We are very sorry indeed about this series of unfortunate delays. But the safety of our passengers is an absolute priority, so we had no option but to put them up in the best possible accommodation we could find while we tried to sort things out."

Travel
Weekend, pages 17-23

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With an eye-opening section dispelling popular myths about backache and products sold to alleviate it, plus a list of useful contact addresses, *The Which? Guide to Managing Back Trouble* is essential reading for anyone with back problems. It costs just £9.99 (P&P FREE). To order, send your name and address, the book title and your payment (cheque made payable to Which? Ltd or credit card number with expiry date) to: Which?, PO Box 89, Dept SP59, Hertford, SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Remand in 29-year-old murder

A man accused of murdering a former Grenadier Guardsman 29 years ago was remanded in custody by Horseferry Road magistrates in London yesterday. Arthur Jackson, 60, who was extradited from America, was charged with murdering Anthony Fletcher, 33, in Chelsea in 1967, with wounding a bank employee and with three armed robberies.

Brothel inquiry

The independent inquiry into a claim that police officers used the home of the serial killer Frederick West as a brothel has been completed. The report of the investigation by a team from West Mercia Police is with the Police Complaints Authority.

Police chief

The new Chief Constable of the West Midlands force is to be Edward Crew, presently in charge at Northamptonshire. Mr Crew, 50, who is married with two adult children, will take over next month from Sir Ron Hadfield, who is to retire.

Quango ads

The National Heritage Department is to advertise for the first time for people to serve on its quangos. Virginia Bottomley said in a Commons written reply that she had commissioned advertisements in *The Sunday Times* this weekend.

Sunblock recall

Thousands of bottles of Sun E45 sunblock lotions are being recalled after some products were found to be faulty and others were wrongly packaged. The brand is made by a company owned by Boots but is on sale elsewhere.

Saved by skates

A boy was saved from death when he was electrocuted while playing near a railway line because of his new roller skates, doctors said. The rubber wheels provided insulation when Kristoffer Cavan, 12, of Dumbarton, Strathclyde, was hit by 25,000 volts.

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Searching for the invisible - and finding it everywhere

SOME years ago when my children were very young, I left home early for a live broadcast before they had woken. They came into our bedroom just as I began to speak on the radio. They couldn't understand where I was. They could hear my voice yet could not see me. They pulled back the duvet, looked under the bed and opened the wardrobe. When my wife said I was in the radio, they gave her a look of incomprehension that children reserve for adults whom they believe have taken leave of the real world. I was there, yet I wasn't. Just as

their minds could not conceive how I was present in one dimension but not in another, so our intellects can fail to grasp the mystery of Christ being absent and present. He who ascended into Heaven to be with the Father and absented himself physically from the face of the Earth is also the one whose invisible, spiritual and ubiquitous presence is celebrated by followers.

The fact that we cannot see Him is one of the challenges of faith. The invisibility of God makes it difficult for some to believe. I remember as a teenager lying in

bed and attempting to bargain with God: "If only you would appear to me, then I would really be sure." As we wrestle with this question, a number of reflections are worth considering. First, the invisibility of God is as much a part of His nature as is the invisibility of the wind and the visibility of matter. Secondly, the fact that He is Spirit whom we cannot see or touch means that He is not confined to our three dimensions and can be with all people all the time. Thirdly and importantly, the invisibility of God creates a distance between us

Credo

By James Jones

and Him where we find our own freedom and space to relate to Him. Distance is important to all relationships, for it is in that space that we reflect and appreciate the person we are getting to know.

On Monday we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist who contrasted his own ministry of baptising in water for the forgive-

ness of sins with that of his cousin Jesus who "will baptise with the Holy Spirit". The first engagement that Jesus has with the Spirit is in the womb of his mother Mary, the second is in the river Jordan when he hears the affirmation of his Father's love, the third when he is driven into the wilderness to face the challenge of his vocation.

It is this Spirit with whom he is always at one, yet from whom he remains distinct, that Jesus is both driven by and drives. It is this Spirit, adventurous and unpredictable, whom Jesus promises

"will glorify me". The intent and the nature of the Spirit's ministry is to enlarge our understanding of Jesus and to fasten our souls through delighting in Him. This is one of the contradictions of the charismatic movement, with its proper emphasis on the once-neglected doctrines of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the Spirit is not to draw attention to the Spirit, but self-effacingly to celebrate the significance of Jesus.

In this season of Pentecost, it is worth reflecting that the true measure of any movement of the Holy Spirit is the extent to which

it focuses on Jesus as the agent of all creation and as the only one to heal us from the disease of sin. Above all it is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, who goes between Heaven and Earth making present in our lives He who is absent physically. Like the wind, we cannot see the Spirit. But just as the wind-driven, rustling leaves draw attention to the vine, so the spirit-driven members of the Church alert us to the presence of Jesus in the world today.

□ The Right Rev James Jones is Bishop of Hull

Gang removed treasures from unlocked churches

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent



Warwick: gang leader

THE leader of a gang that stole more than £40,000 in treasure from dozens of churches was jailed for ten years yesterday. Paul Warwick, 48, was said to have targeted 500 churches on Ordnance Survey maps throughout the South of England.

Simon Draycott, for the prosecution, told Oxford Crown Court that Warwick had led a highly organised gang of 30 professional criminals who effectively destroyed part of the nation's heritage. He had taken advantage of the "open door" policy of churches to walk in and take what he wanted over a period of eight months. He had sold irreplaceable religious artefacts to antiques dealers, claiming

they had been in his family for years.

Warwick had concentrated on Gothic, Norman and Saxon churches because their contents were more valuable. Where the church doors were locked, Mr Draycott said, he had sought out the key holder and posed as a visitor who wanted to pray.

Among churches robbed were those in Tring, Hertfordshire, Littlebury, Essex, Alderbury, Wiltshire, and Ascott-under-Wychwood, Thame, Burford, Enstone and Dorchester and Wigginton, all in Oxfordshire. Items stolen included oak side-tables and altar tables, hand-carved chairs, beautifully inlaid boxes, candlesticks, prayer books,

Bibles, carved angels and a large number of chests.

In a theft from St John the Baptist Church in Burford in April 1994, a £1,000 15th-century chair had been stolen. A heavy chain securing it to a pew had been cut. Warwick had told an antique dealer in west London that the chair had been in his grandmother's loft for 40 years.

The court was told that Warwick admitted handling a wooden bench worth £1,500, an altar table, an oak chair and a pair of candlesticks from Holy Trinity Church in Littlebury.

Some pieces had been stolen to order: photographs taken of items in Dorchester Abbey had been taken to Paris to be



Detectives displaying Bibles stolen by Warwick and his team of accomplices

viewed by a potential buyer. Mr Draycott said the stolen items could not be properly valued because so many had been in the churches for hundreds of years and were priceless. "By stealing from so many churches up and down

the land, Warwick and his accomplices have partly destroyed the country's heritage. "The targets were vulnerable, easy targets because they were often unlocked."

Warwick, formerly of Headington, Oxford, had been arrested after a report from a neighbour. Mr Draycott said: "Warwick was interviewed over a number of days. He said he had stolen property from literally hundreds of churches, property that had been in the churches for hundreds of years."

"He talked about how he stole. He never broke in. The doors were always open. He worked with a team, dealing with stolen property for about two years. He said he was more confident being dishonest than trying not to be dishonest."

David Hughes, for Warwick, said: "He has a serious personality disorder. He is

depressed and ashamed at the way he has treated many of his victims."

Warwick admitted taking part with others in a £7,000 robbery at an antique shop in west London and eight other offences of theft or handling stolen property. He asked for 51 other offences to be considered.

Jailing him, Judge May said: "These offences amounted to an organised campaign which you and others mounted against churches in the South of England. It is not only the scale of loss, in many cases the goods were irreplaceable."

After the case Brian King, spokesman of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, said: "The criminal today can be dressed in a smart suit and carry a clipboard, or wear overalls and a plastic helmet. Suspicion has got to become one of the Christian virtues."

Theologian challenges changes to liturgy

By Ruth Gledhill

A CHURCH scholar will urge the Church of England leaders today to resist pressure from the feminist lobby to amend its liturgical language.

Dr Roger Beckwith, librarian of Latimer House, Oxford, which promotes theological research, argues that the Church is currently vulnerable to pressure groups because it is numerically and financially weak. "In a time of weakness, when rigorous theological analysis is regarded as harsh, appeasement is the order of the day," he is to tell the Prayer Book Society, in the City of London.

The Church's General Synod is next month to debate a report recommending revisions to its service for Holy Communion in the 1980 *Alternative Service Book*, with the words "fellow men" in the confession being amended to "neighbour". In the eucharistic prayer, "It is right to give Him thanks and praise" would become: "It is right to give our thanks and praise". Dr Beckwith will challenge the claim that women feel excluded by language dominated by masculine terms. "If they do, it is strange that they attend church in so much better numbers than men."

At Your Service
Weekend, page 15

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Family history contradicts Sir Walter Scott's account of inspiration for Bannockburn

Document debunks legend of Bruce and the try-again spider

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Scotland's most powerful legends, that of Robert the Bruce and the persistent spider, has been debunked. A new exhibition suggests it was one of Bruce's officers who witnessed the incident rather than the King.

According to the legend, Bruce, defeated by the English and in low spirits, was in hiding. He watched a spider make six fruitless attempts to climb a web, succeeding at the seventh. The spider's determination is said to have inspired

him to victory against Edward II at Bannockburn in 1314.

The legend first appeared in Sir Walter Scott's *Tales of a Grandfather* published in the late 1820s. However, an exhibition at the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh suggests that Scott got it wrong. It was Bruce's general, Sir James Douglas — Good Sir James to the Scots, the Black Douglas to the English — who witnessed the spider's struggle.

The exhibition on Scottish independence includes a copy

of a document belonging to the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, a descendant of Douglas, that tells the history of the Douglas family. It was written by Hume of Godscroft more than 200 years before the account given by Scott.

The document tells how, during the winter of 1307, while sheltering in the Hebrides after defeat, Bruce is discussing his plans with his generals. To encourage him in his fight against the English, Douglas tells him of a spider he has seen.

"Sir I being somewhat solitary in the fields seriously contemplating of your affairs and casting my eyes about, I spied a spider climbing by his web to the height of an tree, and at 12 several times I perceived his web broke, and the spider fell to the ground."

"But the 13 tyme he attempted and clamb up the tree without difficulty. See Sir, although fortune hath shewn his self adverse towards you in 12 several battles and encounters whereby your Majesty is driven to this exigence, as to take the Hebrides for your refuge, My advise is to follow the example of the spider, to poush forward your Majesties' fortune once more, and hazard yet our persones the 13 tyme."

It was Douglas, Bruce's greatest captain, who carried out Bruce's dying wish by carrying his embalmed heart into battle against the Moors in Spain, where Douglas himself was slain.

Hume of Godscroft's account was written more than two centuries after Bruce's death. Alison Rossie, of the Scottish Records Office, said that historians and academics were familiar with his account



Robert the Bruce depicted preparing his men for victory in the battle against Edward II at Bannockburn in 1314

but believed it was the first time the document had been displayed publicly.

The reputation of Robert the Bruce is coming under scrutiny and interest has been stimulated by films such as *Braveheart* and *The Bruce*, but there are historical inaccuracies and this gives people a chance to discover for themselves the part he played.

Professor Geoffrey Barrow, formerly of Edinburgh University and an authority on Robert the Bruce, said: "The Hume document is well

known among historians. Scott thought the story too good to miss and incorporated it into his popular account of Robert the Bruce."

He believes it unlikely that either Bruce or Douglas witnessed the spider. "It is one of those characteristic improving stories which we like to tell of our great heroes. The Victorians weren't troubled about whether Scott attributed his sources. It is a bit like Hollywood scriptwriters today."

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish Office Min-

ister and younger brother of the Duke of Hamilton, said yesterday: "I don't think it much matters who saw the spider first. What matters is the principle of try, try and try again which they both very much believed in."

"I think the story shows how close the two men were. Sir James fought 59 battles against the English and won 53 of them, the most famous being Bannockburn where he played a key role."

Leading article, page 25

Examiners call new L-test strike

Driving examiners are to strike on a second day next week, throwing tests into confusion. The Friday date was called by the Public Service, Tax and Commerce Union after pay talks with the Driving Standards Agency broke down. Union members are already due to strike next Wednesday. About 15,000 learner drivers face the prospect of having to sit the new written section of the driving test, which comes into operation on July 1.

Kites fly again

Residents of Glasgow may soon see red kites, a century after the birds were wiped out in Scotland by gamekeepers. Twenty birds flown into Glasgow from Germany will be released into the region in six weeks, after their successful return to the Highlands.

Whisky warning

Trading standards officers have issued a warning over bogus whisky being sold in Leeds pubs. The bottles, labelled as Royal Game Finest Blended Scotch and selling for £7, contain diluted methylated spirit with colouring. Drinking it could cause blindness.

Dental complaint

The parents of a girl who died after receiving routine dental treatment lodged a complaint against the anaesthetist, Dr Tamas Kumar Basoo, with the General Medical Council. An inquest in Derby returned a verdict of accidental death on Katie Dougal, 10.

Bat woman baby

A woman bitten by a rabid bat earlier this month has given birth to a healthy girl. Sheila Wright, who runs a bat sanctuary at her home in Shoreham, Sussex, still has to complete rabies inoculations. The baby, called Sophie, will not need treatment.

Rape remand

A man charged with raping a 16-year-old girl at a beauty spot was remanded in custody for a week by Portsmouth magistrates. Dion Challis, 23, of Havant, is accused of the assault at Havant Thicket on Monday night. He also faces a firearms charge.

Unknown monkey saved from poachers in Brazilian rainforest

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A NEW species of monkey, nicknamed Zip by South American Indians because of its size and speed, has been found by scientists in the rainforests of Brazil. The monkey, orange-haired and about the size of squirrel, was rescued from poachers.

Researchers, called in to catalogue the captured animals, realised that among them was a new species of marmoset.

It has been given the Latin name *Callithrix saterei* after the Sateri tribe on whose land, between the Tapajós and Madeira rivers, the mon-

key lives. Sir Robert May, Professor of Zoology at Oxford University and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government, said yesterday: "It is like finding a new planet of the Sun."

The discovery showed how nature still had much more to reveal, he said. "It underlines how far behind we are in this area of science. We have a better idea of how many molecules there are in the Universe than how many species there are on Earth."

Dr Kenneth Mittermeier, president of Conservation International in Washington

and a leading authority on monkeys, said: "It is pretty exciting. You'd think because primates are our closest relatives we would have found all the species by now."

The discovery, published in the journal *Goeldiana*, has been made by two Brazilian scientists, Mauricio de Almeida Noronha, of the Amazon Forest Foundation, and José de Sousa e Silva, of the Goeldi Museum in Belém.

The monkey was discovered after a crackdown by the Brazilian Government on poachers. Dr Noronha was called in but was unable to



place the marmoset and asked Dr Sousa e Silva for help. He confirmed that the animal was a new species.

The two scientists then tried to piece together from the poachers and river-boat cap-

tains where they had captured the monkey. It led them to the Rio Madeira basin, where local people described such a marmoset living near by.

Dr Noronha said: "They said there was a guy on the other side of the river who had a Zip. It was a very emotional experience. We went to visit the guy and when he came out to greet us he had the monkey on his head."

The find is the sixth new primate species to be discovered in Brazil in as many years. In 1992 another marmoset, called Maues marmoset, was found in an area of forest not far from the latest find. More than 140 species

of monkey are now known to science.

Frank Wheeler, head keeper of small mammals at London Zoo, said yesterday: "There are still so many parts of Brazil, right in the heart of the rainforest, that we have not been to yet. And as we go deeper into the rainforest these things turn up. There are more to come, I am sure of that."

He said it was probable that the Indian nickname Zip was not specific to this species, but a generic term used by the Indians for all marmosets. "They are all incredibly fast and agile. It is like Arabs calling all cats cheetahs."



Callithrix saterei is new to science

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Clinton usurps Reagan's Teflon crown to defy Republican mud-slinging

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

BILL CLINTON is usurping the title "Teflon President" from Ronald Reagan. New opinion polls suggest that very little of the mud thrown at Mr Clinton in the past two weeks has stuck. He maintains a commanding national lead over Bob Dole, his Republican presidential challenger, and also remains far ahead in key electoral states.

Indeed, his approval rating has actually risen.

The figures baffle political experts. Stephen Hess, of the Brookings Institution, believes they reveal that voters consider the economy more important than the President's reputation. Ross Baker, of Rutgers University, suggests that character cuts little ice because voters knew Mr Clinton was no saint when they elected him.

Yesterday's Gallup poll for CNN

and USA Today showed that voters overwhelmingly consider Mr Dole to be more honest and moral than Mr Clinton, with 57 per cent believing that the White House improperly acquired FBI files on Republican officials. The same number believe Hillary Clinton is guilty of a Whitewater cover-up.

But the poll also gives Mr Clinton a 19-point lead over Mr Dole, just one point down on a poll in The Washington Post on Thurs-

day. His approval rating has risen five points since May to a record 58 per cent, and respondents consider him more in tune with their needs and values than is Mr Dole.

The latest state polls are just as dispiriting for Mr Dole, who enjoyed a brief "bounce" after resigning from the Senate on June 11. Mr Clinton enjoys leads of 33 points in New York, 23 in California and 13 in Florida. He has even pulled level with Mr Dole in Texas,

which has voted Republican in four consecutive presidential elections. A Dole spokesman said the public had yet to absorb the latest scandals besetting the White House. But a Clinton campaign spokesman countered that voters realised the President was working for the national good despite Republican attacks. The scandals, he said, have stolen the limelight from Mr Dole.

Ross Perot's new Reform Party

yesterday compounded Mr Dole's problems by announcing convention plans that seem designed to divert media attention from the Republican convention. The Reform Party convention will open in Long Beach, California, on August 11, a day before the Republican event 120 miles away in San Diego.

After a day of speeches to nominate its presidential candidates, the Reform Party's convention will recess while members vote

electronically or by mail. It will reconvene a week later in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to announce the result.

Perot spokesmen deny that they are trying to upstage the Republicans. They say the dates are mandated by state deadlines for submitting the names of nominees. So far only Mr Perot and Richard Lamm, Colorado's former Governor, have emerged as possible Reform Party contenders.

'Three-strikes' law ruled illegal by California court

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A unanimous decision, the California Supreme Court in San Francisco has ruled that the "three-strikes-and-you're-out" law is unconstitutional and said judges need no longer refer to previous convictions when sentencing.

The retroactive decision is likely to cause turmoil in the state's courts. An estimated 16,000 Californians sentenced in the past two years can now appeal.

Under the "three-strikes" legislation passed by California in 1994, criminals convicted for a second time have had sentences doubled. More dramatically, anyone with two serious or violent convictions has been jailed for 25 years to life for any third offence unless the prosecution approved a lesser sentence.

Yesterday's decision gave judges a choice as to whether to implement "three strikes" and provoked a barrage of criticism in the Golden State from leading Republicans and victims' relatives, who called on the electorate to vent its anger at the mainly Republican court.

Supporters of "three strikes" believe it has cut the state's crime rate and they accuse the court of protecting its own turf rather than the population at large. Pete Wilson, the Repub-

lican Governor, said the ruling, written by one of his own appointees, was "potentially dangerous to public safety". He added: "We cannot tolerate a situation which permits judges who are philosophically unsympathetic or politically disinclined to 'three strikes' to reduce the strong sentences that the voters intended to impose on habitual criminals."

He promised to help to pass amendments to restore a tougher sentencing mandate.

The court's decision derived from a San Diego case in which Jesus Romero, a repeat offender, was charged with cocaine possession. When a superior court judge attempted to drop Romero's previous convictions so that he could

plea bargain, prosecutors said the judge lacked the right to do so. The supreme court has now ruled that to be an unconstitutional infringement of judicial powers.

Opponents of "three strikes", who have long argued that the law clogged courts and trapped petty criminals instead of habitual offenders, praised the independence of the seven judges. "We're delighted," said Ramona Ripston of the American Civil Liberties Union. "If you take sentencing discretion away from a judge, you may as well use a computer."

The law was passed in reaction to the 1993 case of Polly Klaas, 12, who was kidnapped and murdered by Richard Davis, a convict on parole. Immediate anger was directed at the courts for allowing Davis, sentenced to death this week, to walk free.

But the "three-strikes" law has proved increasingly controversial in America, where its implementation has varied wildly from state to state. For many, its apparent absurdity was epitomised last year when Jerry Williams, a warehouse packer from Los Angeles with previous convictions for robbery and attempted robbery, was jailed for 25 years for stealing a slice of pizza.

Move to ban chain gangs

Montgomery: A proposed legal settlement between jail inmates, prison officials and Fob James, the Republican Governor of Alabama, would ban chain gangs, reintroduced in the state last year, a plaintiffs' attorney said. A US magistrate must approve the deal. (Reuters)



President Clinton applauds as the Olympic flame is lit on the White House lawn: hours later it was out

President's Olympic flame a wash-out

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

WAS it an omen? The Olympic flame spent the night on the South Lawn of the White House — and was extinguished by a rainstorm.

President Clinton had welcomed the torch to the executive mansion at 10pm on Thursday and helped to light

a mini-cauldron that was to have burned through the night. But barely had the crowds departed than the skies opened. This was the third time it had gone out since it left Los Angeles 57 days ago for a 15,000-mile odyssey through 42 states that will end in Atlanta's Olympic stadium on July 19. It was

extinguished once in Washington State when the cyclist who was carrying it fell off, and again on the great plains when a Pony Express rider's stirrup broke. Fortunately, the presidential-sized motorcade escorting the flame across America carries four separate "mother flames" which are guarded by a team of 50

Georgia state troopers, and is secured each night in a hotel room. Mr Clinton, who hopes the Olympics will boost him as much as the 1984 Games helped President Reagan, hosted another elaborate South Lawn ceremony yesterday morning to send the flame on its way.

UN group forecasts famine in Africa

FROM REUTER
IN ROME

ABOUT 22 million people in sub-Saharan Africa face food emergencies ranging from shortages to starvation, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation reported yesterday.

The Rome-based agency added in a special feature in its *Food Outlook* that the situation in the region showed no signs of improvement. It said tight global cereal supplies, high prices, balance of payments difficulties in many countries and low availability of food aid threatened to undermine sub-Saharan Africa's food security.

On a brighter note, the report said Ethiopia, one of the main recipients of international aid over the past decade, would need smaller amounts of aid imports this year. Angola, Mozambique and Rwanda were also gradually beginning to reap the rewards of peace.

International cereal supplies had shrunk and prices had risen by more than 50 per cent this year, although the organisation forecast 1996 output up by 6.5 per cent on 1995 figures. "Indications for the 1996 cereal crops continue to point to a recovery in world production after the sharply reduced harvest last year, but the global supply/demand situation will remain tight," the report said.

Britain
Saudi
to annil

Judge halts

By TERRY...

DEEP in the...
Borneo rainforest...
Kajang Tubek...
rest more easily...
years. Mr Tubek...
descendants of...
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victory this was...
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مكتبة الأمل

THE SUNDAY

Britain angered by Saudi rebel's call to annihilate Jews

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MICHAEL HOWARD, the Home Secretary, has asked the Crown Prosecution Service to look at a call for the "annihilation" of Jews, published by a Saudi dissident given temporary asylum in Britain.

Muhammad al-Masari's call, which was made in a newsletter, *al-Huquq*, has caused outrage among MPs, Jewish organisations and anti-racist groups, and has prompted the Board of Deputies of British Jews to call on the police and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, to take action against him.

The Board of Deputies said the remarks were tantamount to "incitement to murder". Dr Masari told the *Jewish Chronicle* that he was referring only to Jews living in Israel.

The dissident physicist, who headed the anti-Saudi Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights until he was ousted after a quarrel with other Saudi exiles, wrote in the weekly newsletter: "Jews are a nation of cowards. They are not a people capable of warfare. Their annihilation is not difficult for Muslims. God has declared that they will be under subjugation to those who will afflict them with the most severe punishment until the day of resurrection because of their rejection of His message."

He added: "The extermination of the Jews is a specific obligation placed on the people of Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon because they have occupied

واليهود قوم جبان ولا يدرى ما لهم حرب والقتال عليهم ليس حجة على المسلمين وقد تأذن الله أن يهلك ملوكهم من بعدهم سوء الصواب إلى يوم القيامة لتكفرهم وعصيانهم وإفسادهم في الأرض حيث قال سبحانه وتعالى: "ولقد تأذن ربك ليهيطنن"

Fighting talk: part of the article accusing Jews of being cowards

their land." He said that Islamic law imposed an obligation to "destroy the Jewish entity and annihilate it from its roots through holy war".

The Crown Prosecutor has been asked to decide whether these remarks breach public order or race relations laws. A spokesman said they were considering if there were grounds for prosecution.

If Dr Masari were prosecuted, that would not necessarily lead to his expulsion. However, Mr Howard, whose attempt to deport him to



Masari: remarks could prompt prosecution

Dominica was thwarted by the courts, may decide to abrogate Dr Masari's special permission to remain in Britain for the next four years.

MPs have expressed anger at Dr Masari's remarks. Winston Churchill accused him of "abusing the hospitality of this country".

Dr Masari's newsletters and faxed attacks on the Saudi Royal Family strained relations between London and Riyadh, but the Saudis have now signalled that they will ignore Dr Masari's activities.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is travelling to Saudi Arabia on July 2 for talks with King Fahd and Saudi leaders. He is likely to seek assurances that no British business has suffered because of the Masari affair.

He may also see whether there is Saudi interest in buying the British replacement for the Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft. Britain has to decide in the next ten days whether to buy this or either of the two American competitors.

A Muslim group in Britain yesterday denounced British condemnation of Dr Masari's remarks, saying that the physicist was a "mild-natured man of intense integrity". The Bangladesh Muslim Literary Circle said that foreign-owned sections of the media, "heavily infested by Zionist extremists", were labelling any Muslim a terrorist or fanatic, and were demonising Islam. They said Dr Masari was doing no more than reproducing verses from the Koran.



Iraq's main biological weapons factory, 40 miles from Baghdad, is reduced to rubble. The picture of the explosion, released yesterday, is from a video recording made by the United Nations

UN blows up germ plant

20-strong team of experts who are disarming Iraq. The Al-Hakam complex, which ... produced germ

leave today. The factory, the first germ warfare plant to be destroyed by the team, covered seven square miles. Iraqis provided the workforce for the demolition. (AFP)

Israel rethinks pledge to quit Hebron

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MARK HUBAND IN CAIRO

ON THE eve of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo, ministers from Israel's new right-wing Government met yesterday to consider proposals for watering down the commitment to withdraw from Hebron and keep security control over the occupied Palestinian city in Israeli hands.

The plan could have explosive results among the 120,000-strong Palestinian

population, some of whom yesterday pelted Israeli vehicles with rocks and bottles. The proposals are also expected to strengthen the hands of hardliners at the Cairo summit calling for a tough reaction to the election of Binyamin Netanyahu.

In Egypt's strongest reaction so far, Amr Moussa, the Foreign Minister, said expansion of Jewish settlements in

the West Bank by Israel's Likud Government would be illegal, and urged Mr Netanyahu to reconsider what he called "threatening" Israeli guidelines.

Palestinian officials say that they view withdrawal from Hebron as a test of the new Government's stated commitment to peace. Hebron is the last of the seven West Bank cities due to be handed over to

Palestinian control under the terms of the 1993 peace deal.

As the talks chaired by Mr Netanyahu and including senior army commanders proceeded in Jerusalem, leaders of the 450 settlers who live in the centre of Hebron under fortress-style conditions claimed to have received a pledge from Mr Netanyahu last week that he would not evacuate Israeli troops.

Judge halts work on £4bn dam to save Borneo tribes from injustice

By TERRY SLAVIN

DEEP in the misty heart of the Borneo rainforest, the spirits of Kajing Tubek's ferocious ancestors rest more easily than they have for years. Mr Tubek and two other descendants of the great Dyak headhunting tribes scored a crucial victory this week in their battle against the massive Bakun dam, which will flood an area of rainforest the size of Singapore, inundating

sacred ancestral graves and forcing them to abandon their longhouse existence.

A High Court judge in far-off Kuala Lumpur ruled that the £4 billion dam — a pet project of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister — had violated Malaysian environmental laws.

Judge James Foong said Kuala Lumpur was wrong to transfer responsibility for assessing the dam's social and environmental

impact to the Sarawak Government, a large shareholder in the project, and to ignore the concerns of environmentalists and the 10,000 indigenous tribespeople who will be resettled, forcibly if necessary, on palm oil plantations. "This court shall not idly stand by and witness such injustice," the judge said. He ordered that work be halted until the project is assessed by the federal environment ministry.

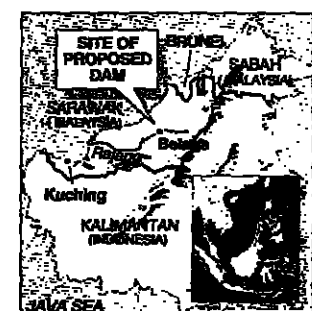
Mr Tubek and his fellow plain-

tiffs, whose protests since the dam was first announced in 1979 had been ignored by both Malaysian and Sarawak authorities, were jubilant at their victory. But Mr Tubek said he will have to tell the people in his longhouse that the battle is far from over. "The Government is determined to go ahead," he said.

Indeed, Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, immediately described the High Court ruling as

"a technicality" that could be resolved without halting work on the dam.

Gurdial Singh Nijar, a lawyer acting for the tribespeople, said the court ruling proved that Malaysia has a functioning democracy. "The truth is no matter of how high or low you are. The court has made a clear declaration that no one is above the law." But many observers fear that the ruling will be overturned on appeal.



Botswana builds up arsenal

Johannesburg: An arms build-up by Botswana is causing concern among neighbouring countries (Ray Kennedy writes). The acquisitions include tanks and a squadron of fighter bombers.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, has announced a visit to the region next month. The arms buying spree includes 50 German-made Leopard tanks from The Netherlands. Born is trying to block the purchase.

Euthanasia law challenged

Sydney: A last-minute challenge by Australia's Medical Association to euthanasia laws will be heard on July 1, the day the new legislation is due to take effect (Roger Maynard writes). If successful, the challenge would prevent the world's first legalised voluntary euthanasia killings from being carried out.

Burgers get the brush-off

Paris: McDonald's has scrapped plans for a restaurant in a building where Picasso and other masters bought their brushes and oils in the French capital's historic Montparnasse district after a protest rally and more than 16,000 people signed petitions against the scheme. (AP)

Mengistu is expensive guest

Harare: Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the former Ethiopian dictator charged with genocide, has reportedly cost the Zimbabwean taxpayer nearly £650,000 in upkeep and security during his almost four years in exile here (Jan Raath writes).

Jam for lunch

Taipei: Vice-President Lien Chan of Taiwan is entitled to use 200 police to divert traffic, causing large jams, to go home in his limousine for daily lunch with his mother, the Government said. (AP)

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Yeltsin's daughter 'alerted him to dangers of coup'

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's younger daughter, Tatyana, may have played an important role in helping to foil the failed palace coup that resulted in the sacking of three powerful aides.

Details of the showdown are unclear, but it is evident that one wing of the Kremlin apparatus, headed by Mr Yeltsin's most trusted aide and chief bodyguard, General Aleksandr Korzhakov, tried to sideline key members of the President's campaign team and hoped to cancel the second round of voting due on July 3.

According to several Moscow analysts, General Korzhakov, Mikhail Barsukov, the counter-intelligence chief, and Oleg Soskovets, the number two in the Government, had formed a sinister troika. They had cultivated links with Communist Party members close to their outlook. The strategy was to cancel the elections and declare a "government of national unity". Mr Yeltsin would stay at his head, but only in a ceremonial role.

"They needed not so much President Yeltsin, but a president who was totally under their control, who happened to be Yeltsin," Vitali Tretyakov, editor of *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, wrote yesterday. According to Andrei Piontkovsky, a Moscow political analyst, the key player on the Communist side was Professor Aleksei Podberezkin, a former intelligence analyst who now heads the Spiritual Heritage movement, a nationalist think-tank. Although not a party member

himself, the professor is a member of parliament and key strategist for the Communist presidential candidate, Gennadi Zyuganov.

The intermediary between General Korzhakov and Professor Podberezkin appears to have been Boris Berezhovsky, a Moscow banker. In May, he initiated the Letter of 13, an appeal by top businessmen for political stability and, implicitly, cancellation of the polls.

The idea was thwarted by an unexpected phenomenon. Mr Yeltsin's dramatic revival in the polls and energetic electoral campaign. A guiding spirit in this was Tatyana Dyachenko, his younger daughter, a mathematician and mother of two, who joined the team in February as the President's main image-maker. "Her job was to attempt to restore to the President his human face, the face of a man who loves Russia," said a



Tatyana Dyachenko: called for sackings

source close to the campaign team. Her arrival coincided with the demotion of Mr Soskovets, who had been initially appointed head of the campaign effort on the recommendation of General Korzhakov. She slotted into a team with a more "democratic" outlook headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Anatoli Chubais, the liberal reformer sacked from the Government a month earlier.

By April, not least thanks to his daughter's image-making, a revitalised leader was emerging, reminiscent of the man who had won the 1991 presidential election. His poll rating leapt. In May, General Korzhakov spoke out for the postponement of the elections and praised the Communists. He was publicly rebuked by Mr Yeltsin.

Someone, possibly his daughter, may have begun to warn the President that he was becoming the prisoner of his entourage. "These people created an information blockade around the President," said Mr Piontkovsky. "The only person who could penetrate that blockade was Tatyana."

In an interview given before the sackings and published in yesterday's *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, Tatyana said that virtually the only people who openly criticised the President were members of his close family. She added: "Sometimes I am astonished why he tolerates next to him people who are deceiving him. He should sack them."

President chases the dacha runaways

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AFTER a week of brilliant political manoeuvring in the run-up to the second round of presidential elections, one elusive detail still stands between President Yeltsin and victory on July 3.

Having neutralised the threat posed by Communist rivals and Kremlin hardliners, Mr Yeltsin's real fear now is the allure of dachas, the country houses to which millions of his supporters could retreat on election day, a public holiday, without voting.

The dacha is regarded practically as a birthright by most of Russia's urban population. The selection of second homes, from simple hand-built sheds to lavish million-dollar mansions, is as diverse as the *dachniki*, who encompass society from factory workers to nouveau riches.

On Friday nights, railway stations and roads are swamped as a human tide streams from the cities loaded with weekend provisions, children and pets for the relative quiet of the countryside. While most turned out to back Mr Yeltsin in the first round, this time voter apathy, warm weather and the need to tend to vegetable gardens may produce a similar exodus, even for a midweek poll.

"The elections will be decided by voter turnout, so the dacha factor is crucially important. They deliberately set the next round midweek to stop people escaping to the country," said Christopher Granville, a political analyst. According to opinion pollsters, Mr Yeltsin will win



Boris Pasternak at his weekend dacha, typifying the Russians' love of their land

easily if the turnout matches the 70 per cent of the electorate who voted in the first round. However, if the figure drops below 60 per cent then the President could be in trouble, since Communist voters tend to be far more disciplined and less likely to own a dacha.

"Of course I want to vote for Yeltsin, but I am not sure I will be back in time from the

dacha," said Nikolai, a taxi driver who plans to escape with his family to their dacha north of Moscow on the Tuesday evening before the Wednesday poll. Mr Yeltsin is swimming against the tide of history if he hopes to put politics above Russians' love of their land.

One of the most famous dacha destinations is the writers' village at Peredelkino, ten

miles west of Moscow, where Boris Pasternak, the author of *Dr Zhivago* lived and is buried. "I voted for Yeltsin last time and will probably do so again," said Lena, whose rambling dacha is near the writer's former home. "But the garden needs weeding, the strawberries will be ripening and frankly it will be a great temptation to get out of the city."

Tribunal shaken by war crimes testimony

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN THE HAGUE

A FORMER inmate at a Serb-run detention camp yesterday described scenes of unimaginable savagery and sadism inflicted upon Muslim inmates by camp guards.

The courtroom at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal was hushed by the testimony of Suljeman Besic, a lumberjack, who described cruelty and perversion at Trnopolje camp where he was held.

Mr Besic, 46, recalled seeing a son shot after being ordered to have sex with his mother's corpse, a pile of 20 bodies with their heads beaten in, and a Muslim professor who was apparently murdered by the revengeful Serb soldier to whom he once gave bad marks.

The testimony was the most horrifying yet in the trial of Dusan Tadic, the Bosnian Serb who is charged with a campaign of murder and torture in and around Trnopolje and two other camps in north-western Bosnia in 1992. But Mr Tadic was not implicated in the events described by Mr Besic, who was asked to relive the horrors of his detention by Grant Niemann, the prosecutor, to establish the murderous nature of the camp regime.

Mr Tadic, 40, a former bar owner, has denied all charges. Mr Besic said during his imprisonment he was taken to a cinema, used at Trnopolje to house women, children and the elderly, to witness the result of an alleged mass rape by Serb troops of girls, one as young as 13.

Mr Besic told the court that another inmate told him that Serb soldiers had arrived in a tank the previous night and taken their pick of the girls. Any who resisted were beaten and the elderly men who tried to intervene were killed, Mr Besic said.

He described how a Serb soldier ordered the professor out of a room saying: "Don't you remember all those bad marks you gave me?"

"The professor replied 'Really, I gave the marks you deserved, sir,' and the soldier said, 'You see professor, if those marks had been better, your life would have been longer. Now you have to come with me'."

No money makes the world go round and round for spacemen

BY THOMAS DE WAAL

TWO cosmonauts are facing an unscheduled extra 40 days in space on the *Mir* space station because the Russian Space Agency is short of money.

It is the second time this year that Russians have been unable to return to Earth on time because of financial and technical problems in the country's flagging space programme.

Yuri Onufriyenko and Yuri

Usachev will have to stay in orbit until August 30 instead of coming back to Earth in mid-July, the agency's press spokesman, Anatoli Tkachev, said yesterday. "They are taking it philosophically," he added.

The main reason for the postponement is the high cost of the Soyuz rocket boosters that take the cosmonauts to and from *Mir*, Mr Tkachev said. The agency has decided to cut down on manufacture of the boosters because they are too expensive, a

move which will prolong the stay of cosmonauts in space. The space industry was hit by an additional problem on Thursday when a Soyuz-U rocket with a military satellite on board failed to go into orbit after lift-off.

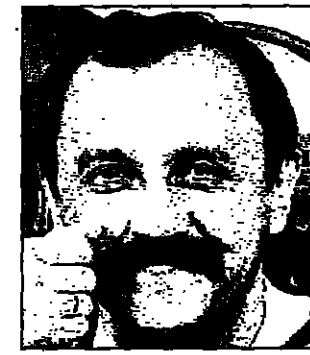
In addition, the agency said it had decided to economise on staff and rely on the experience of the two cosmonauts already up there. The two men have been on board *Mir* since February 23. Their American

companion, the woman astronaut Shannon Lucid, who joined them in March, is due to be taken off the station earlier in August by an American shuttle.

The *Mir* station has been in orbit for ten years — three times longer than originally planned — and is expected to stay in use at least into the next century. The station, however, requires the permanent presence of humans in order to maintain and repair it. The older *Mir* gets, the

more attention it needs to prevent a malfunction, said Yuri Koptev, the Russian Space Agency director.

He said the funding for Russian space research was equivalent to 10 per cent of the 1989 level, in comparative terms. He said \$673 million (£437 million) had been budgeted for space programmes this year. Construction of a key Russian component of the Alpha orbital station — the service module — is five months behind schedule, Mr Koptev added.



Usachev: philosophical about staying aboard

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Iron Lady's reign in Spain

MADRID FILE
by TUNKU
VARADARAJAN



THERE is a corner of Madrid that is forever Maggie's. In an office in Spain's leading right-wing think-tank, her portrait hangs by the desk of an admirer, Miguel Angel Cortés, 37, Secretary of State for Culture in the Government of José María Aznar, is the captain of a team of Anglophile "neoliberals" determined that Baroness Thatcher's ideas find a secure home in Spain.

"Margaret Thatcher is one of the century's most remarkable politicians," Señor Cortés says. "She gave great prominence to ideas and always told the truth. Few leaders have had a greater sense of history than her, and a better direction."

After 13 years of Socialist subsidies, Spain's culture is in the hands of a man

who will take it to market. With Lady Thatcher, Ronald Reagan and Friedrich von Hayek as his deities, Señor Cortés is a "liberal" — the post-Franco Spanish way of saying "conservative". The Foundation for Analysis and Social Studies is modelled on Britain's Centre for Policy Studies and the Adam Smith Institute.

"I like the British way of doing things, of producing a stream of short, thoughtful papers, of trying to influence state policy by argument and analysis." In

this, the loquacious lawyer from Valladolid is better-placed than many. One of Señor Aznar's closest advisers, he has a direct line to the Prime Minister, having accompanied him on the long journey to the Moncloa, Spain's 10 Downing Street. The think-tank has produced scores of policy papers, on subjects as varied as the problems of multiculturalism to the flaws in the European Union's common agricultural policy. Some have been written by Michael Portillo, long a close friend of Señor Cortés. "If I were British," says the Secretary of State in near-perfect English, and not without a mischievous smile, "I would be a militant of the Conservative Party."

Unlike many Tory militants, however, Señor Cortés is a firm believer in the EU, although committed to "a Europe of the nations". "The EU should not override national interests. A process of integration that goes too fast puts public support for the institutions in danger."

"We are firmly against Fortress Europe," he says, adding that Spain, Britain and Portugal — "the three nations with an Atlanticist identity" — had a common interest in keeping alive their special relationships with America. Spoken like a true Thatcherite.



Miguel Angel Cortés, Spain's Secretary of State for Culture, is a firm believer in the Thatcherite creed, but describes himself as a liberal

Monks guard Goya in fight by feminists

FRANCISCO DE GOYA, master-painter and misogynist, would not have liked the spectacle one bit. Hundreds of feminists are converging today on a Carthusian monastery near Zaragoza to protest against a 200-year rule that has stopped women seeing Spain's largest mural.

Painted by Goya in 1772, the work is at Aula Dei. Monks there cherish their all-male sanctuary and have always prohibited women from entering the monastery.

The Carthusians live in individual cells, wear hair shirts and abstain from eating meat. They consume only bread and water on Fridays and speak to each other only on Sundays. Women in their midst, it is held, would destroy the fragile beauty of their asceticism.

But modern Spanish women refuse to accept that access to an art treasure can be barred because of the whims of a few hundred monks. They are demanding equal treatment, and women's groups have threatened to camp indefinitely outside the monastery.

Only two women have so far seen the mural, namely Queen Sofia and an art restorer. It was not easy: both had to get express papal bulls to get past the door.

Cava families are fizzing

THE pleasant popping of corks has given way to the angry brandishing of wits. Codorniu and Freixenet, the two leading producers of cava, Spain's equivalent to champagne, are locked in a court battle.

The Codorniu group, older and traditional, accuses its rivals of passing off as cava inferior sparkling wine that has

spent fewer than the necessary nine-month minimum in the bottle. Denying this, the newer, brasher Freixenet accuses Codorniu of using outlawed grape varieties and watering vineyards illegally.

Attempts to settle out-of-court failed because the heads of the two family-run groups are not on speaking terms.

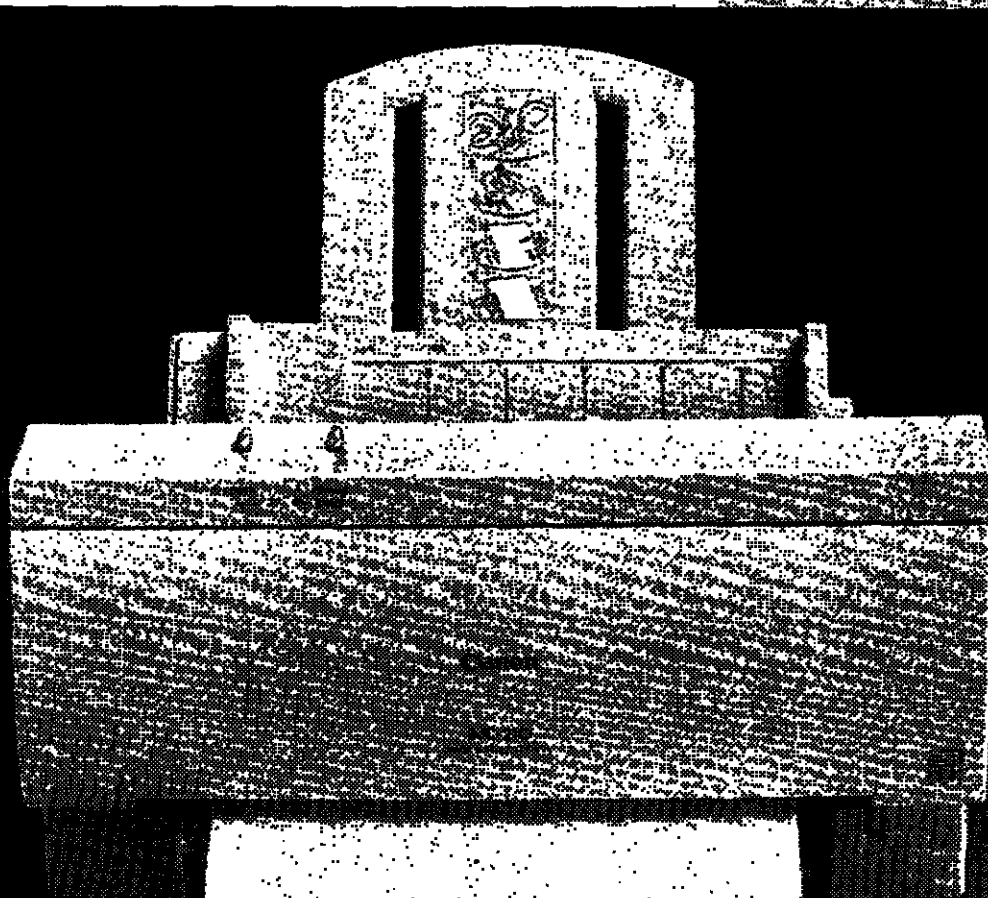
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Secular sentiments run high as Pope starts German visit

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

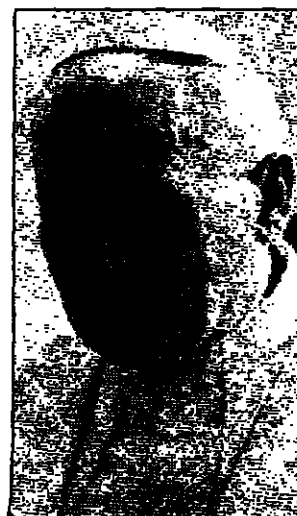
THE Pope travelled to united Germany yesterday for the first time in his papacy and found a church in turmoil.

Demonstrators are underlining the gap between the Vatican's teachings and Germany's secular society. In Berlin, prostitutes have organised an anti-papist ball, and 500 homosexual couples will hold a collective wedding ceremony to coincide with the papal Mass at Hitler's Olympic Stadium tomorrow.

Across the board, there have been criticism and noisy protests. Some have come from long-standing church dissidents like Hans Küng, a theologian who for decades has attacked church teachings on abortion, papal infallibility and the celibacy of priests. Now he has returned to the fray by declaring that the church should tackle the issue of euthanasia and the right of the terminally ill to choose the method of their death.

A gay "mass" is to be held at the weekend in which the Hamburg sado-masochistic prostitute, Domenica Niehoff, will declare herself to be "Popeess Domenica the First", and stage a mock-beatification of the Berlin transvestite, Charlotte von Mahlsdorf. A gay "Love Parade" will attract tens of thousands of homosexuals to Berlin — not enough to rival the 130,000 Catholics attending the papal Mass, but sufficient to embarrass the church leadership.

Even mainstream politicians have joined in the argument. "Demonising birth control and abortion has nothing to do with charity," said Erik Schrader, chairman of the youth branch of the Free Democratic Party. The party is planning a parade of march-



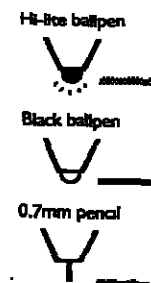
The Pope on his first trip to a united Germany

ing condoms on the eve of the papal visit.

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, a practising Catholic, will meet the Pope tomorrow and has said he will appeal to the pontiff to show more understanding on issues such as population control and the role of women priests. The carnival on the sidelines of the two-day pilgrimage indicates how far the Germans have drifted from organised religion. Fifty per cent of former East Germans say, categorically, that they are not religious. The Germans in the West seem to be more devout — only 29 per cent describe themselves as non-religious.

□ Berlin: A court lifted a Nazi legal judgment against Bernhard Lichtenberg, a Roman Catholic priest martyred during the Third Reich and due to be beatified by the Pope tomorrow. The court said it overruled the verdict because it was based on laws meant to defend Nazi ideology and was used to send a dissenter to jail. (Reuter)

Newton solves multipen problem for rotting's Doktor Schmidt.



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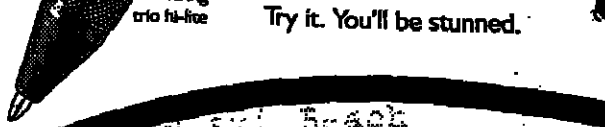
Dr. Schmidt used gravity instead

of mechanical linkages to solve

the problem of nib selection.

Danke, Herr Newton.

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CREDIT CARD



OPINION

Come off it, Mr Travolta: even a \$17 million actor needs a spot of direction



POP

A game of two halves: football fever reaches the sedate world of modern art

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE

From the Sex Pistols' big comeback to West End shows: see Weekend, page 14 for the top events



ON MONDAY

'Poems on the Underground' sets a challenge for poets to capture the essence of a city

Is there anywhere I would rather have been last week than in the exquisitely appointed offices of *The Times*? The question is high unthinkable, of course. Nevertheless, I have dared to think it, and the answer is this: I wish I had been on the set of Roman Polanski's new film and witnessed the wonderful spat between the diminutive director and his star actor, John Travolta.

I do feel a bit sorry for Polanski. (That's a sentence you never thought you would read.) He hires Travolta for \$17 million, this being the preposterous price that the one-time twinkling pelvis of *Grease* now commands after his "brilliant" comeback as a drug-crazed homicidal thug in Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*. He ships Travolta's \$200,000 trailer from America to Paris, so that the actor can recuperate from the strain of remembering several lines at a time in front of the camera. To cap it all, Polanski—the director, let us not forget, of such celluloid masterpieces as *Chinatown* and *Rose-*

Never mind the talent; feel the fame

mary's Baby—grants Travolta "script approval". Which is a bit like Raymond Blanc granting "menu approval" to his waiters.

But even this does not satisfy our modest superstar. Travolta declares that Polanski should not attempt to direct his "personal performance", but only submit a "creative vision"—in writing. Not surprisingly, this creates a certain friction. Travolta storms off, and now the writs are flying like pillows in a fourth-form dorm.

Can this be evidence that Hollywood has lost all semblance of sanity? Quite possibly. The rule in present-day popular culture does seem to be that, in any contest between celebrity and talent, the former wins every time. If Charles Dickens were to descend from heaven today brandishing the television rights to a new novel, would he find any takers? I doubt

it. Not if he were up against *My Life as a Weather Girl* by Tracy Stoggs, much-loved presenter of *Good Morning Baskingstoke*.

I am exaggerating of course. Or am I? This week the showbiz paper *Variety* tells us that the "supermodel" Veronica Webb has decided to be a Hollywood screenwriter. "It's a fun brain exercise," she says of her new career. "If it all works, it would be dope." Good grief. What a wordsmith. Stand aside, F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Yet the fact is that crass, mad, celebrity-obsessed Hollywood makes movies that regularly haul in billions of dollars. The latest blockbuster, *Twister*—about a tornado—has taken \$200 million in its first six weeks. Even *Mission: Impossible*, a rehash of an ancient TV series, is pushing towards \$150 million. Meanwhile, our literate, witty, compassionate, ironic Brit-



RICHARD MORRISON

ish films mostly flop like stranded jellyfish in overseas markets. Here's what we should do. Just for once, we should throw away our manuals of good taste and subtlety. Let's shamelessly ape

Hollywood's worst characteristics, find a story of blatant, blood-and-bullets mindlessness, pay way over the odds for celebrity stars and writers—and then watch it out-gross *Jurassic Park*.

So the Americans make films about tornados? We get exciting weather too! So they tart up old TV series? We have vaults of the stuff. How about a film called *Dixon of Dock Green* goes out in a light drizzle, scripted by Anthea Turner and starring Paul Gascoigne? A sure-fire hit, I should think. Or, as we say in the movie business: "If it all works, it would be dope."

What are you doing this weekend? After the football, that is. And don't say drowning your sorrows; this is a very patriotic column. I know what I shall be doing. Turning the cupboard under the stairs upside-

down. Searching the garden shed, inch by inch. Scrabbling under the fuchsias like a hyperactive badger. You see, somewhere it must exist. The long-lost Schubert symphony, I mean. Or the Turner painting that everybody has overlooked. I'm not lousy. I will settle for an early Damien Hirst if I could get it to the auction house before the health inspectors confiscate it.

The stream of "amazing discoveries" in people's attics and suchlike is truly remarkable, is it not? In recent years we have learnt of a Caravaggio identified in an Irish monastery; an unknown Berlioz Mass found in an organ loft; a public school tuck-shop that apparently contained a priceless ancient mural; a Canova statue found under a rhododendron bush in the West Country; and, only this week, a manuscript fragment of an aria allegedly written by Mozart,

which has "popped up" in the loft of a private house in America. Just fancy that!

Where, exactly, was it found? Who found it? How did it get there? Christie's, the auctioneers, won't say. Yet they are expecting someone to pay £30,000 for the mysterious scrap next Wednesday.

Well, then, how do we know it is by Mozart? Partly because, conveniently enough, the words "Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart" are written at the top. "Mozart's signature." *The Daily Telegraph* explained helpfully. Strange how usually sceptical journalists develop a golly-gosh deference when they walk into auction houses.

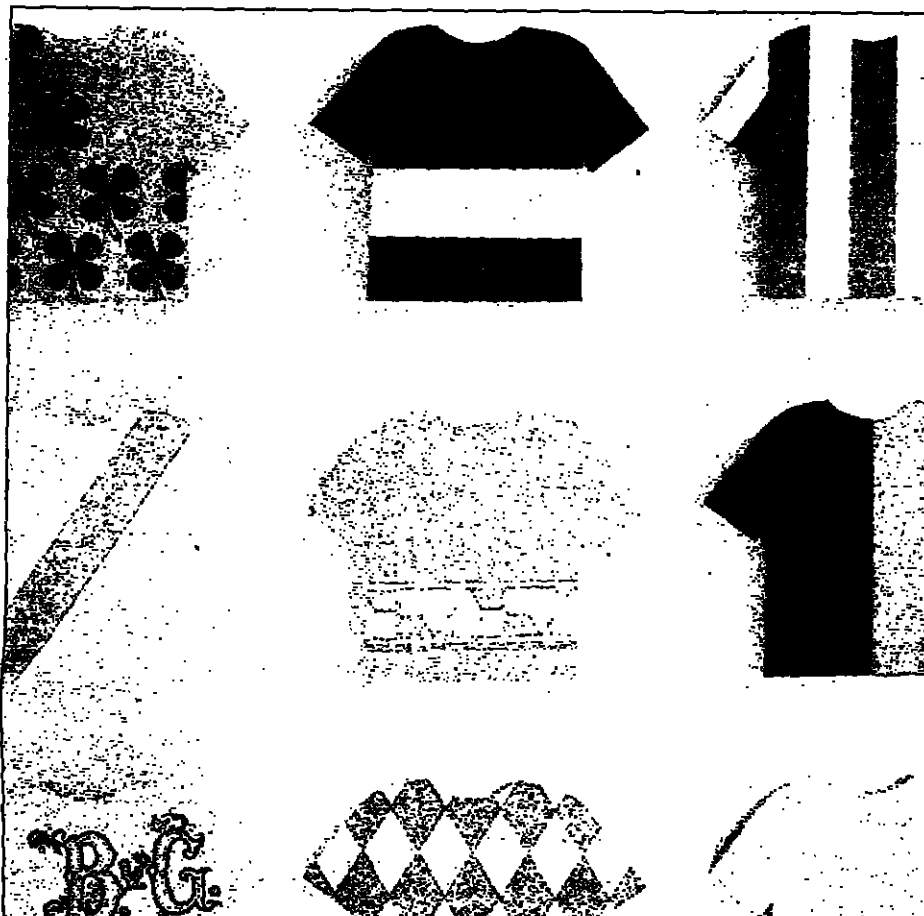
Actually, chaps, it isn't. Mozart never signed himself that way, as any music undergraduate could tell you. Indeed, Christie's themselves will admit this, if pressed on the matter. Of course this doesn't mean that the music itself is fake. But let's just say that the Morrison Estate won't be entering into the bidding war next week. I expect the Gettys will be relieved.

They think it's all oeuvre — it is now

The art of football extends far beyond the pitch, says Charles Hall

Whatever the quality of the sport, Euro 96 has already spawned an impromptu national festival of football-related art. Our artists look, on the whole, remarkably comfortable on the ball.

There is nothing new about the art world's infatuation with the beautiful game. Ben Nicholson, an artist whose own talents lay more in the direction of table tennis, liked to say that abstraction was about the reconciliation of opposing forces and "has as much to do with Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur as it does with the movements of the stars". But there is something new in the form in which this appreciation is expressed. For Nicholson, football is a thing of beauty—the spontaneous physical and intellectual interaction of 22 highly athletic players. However, to judge from the exhibitions at Manchester's Cornerhouse and City Art Galleries in collaboration with the Institute of International Visual Arts, the



The political game: detail of the strips in *Passion de Multitude* by Rosana Fuentes

quality of the football is of no interest at all to the artists of today. Their interest, it seems, is primarily anthropological.

Mark Wallinger's contribution is a huge scarf, whose motif is taken from the double

helix of DNA—a wonderfully concise expression of fandom at its most basic, as an assertion of identity through tribal loyalty. It is not quite clear, though, if the implication is of simple inevitability

"I was born an Arsenal fan" or of consumer choice: you can buy your identity off the peg, along with your Manchester United strip.

It is the second possibility which most interests the artists here. Rosana Fuentes's *Passion de Multitude* consists of a wall crammed with designs for football shirts, most of which appear feasible, until you see that most of them are either well-known logos or political icons; Che Guevara makes an appearance. The step is small, Fuentes seems to be saying, from being a Flora Man to a Liverpool fan, or membership of the Chelsea Head Hunters to dedication to the cause.

Adam Beebe makes much the same point with grids of small, apparently abstract paintings: they turn out to be based on the banners of various Italian fan groups, but they could easily pass for national flags. You can readily imagine young men foolish enough to honour them, or perhaps even to lay down their lives for them.

In fact, imagination is redundant: it is the literal truth. Groups of fans may make ersatz nations, but real ones are not above recruiting the sporting instinct (it is only 20 years since El Salvador and Honduras went to war over a soccer match). When, in the First World War, a Captain Nevill led his men over the top, he encouraged them by offering a prize to the first man to kick his football into the German trenches. Crispin Jones shows a photograph of one of those balls, which has survived Nevill—and most of his men—by more than 80 years.

The hostility resurfaces in Virgil Tracey's exhibition at the Cornerhouse, innocently billed as *Welcome, willkommen, bienvenue*. The show is dominated by a series of St George's Crosses, emblazoned with translations of popular chants. "You couldn't score in a brothel," we read. "Come over here if you think you're hard enough." Team spirit certainly has a lot to answer for.

The trouble with this kind of work is that it tends to suggest that the artist is a lot smarter than the people he or she is trying to understand. There are, though, a handful of works which manage to imply a more generous relationship. I particularly like Roddy Buchanan's collection of mug shots of Glaswegian park players, each of whom has been selected because he has chosen to play in either AC Milan or Inter Milan strip.

You could take them, at first sight, for the real thing—but for the fact that there are far too many of them. This is not a team, but a kind of virtual community, bound together by a common fantasy. Buchanan's curiosity is evidently tempered with respect.

That becomes even clearer in his *Ten in a Million*, which simply records what you see when you turn slowly round in the centre circle of a selection of park football pitches around the world. The answer is not a lot, unless your taste runs to railway lines, passing traffic and undistinguished housing, but then this is precisely the

kind of communal space which modern cities are supposed to lack, and it is here, in an apparently anonymous stretch of ground, that the kind of bonding which the other artists here seem to be poking fun at goes on. This is where the things which humanise a city actually happen. It comes as no surprise, therefore, to discover that Buchanan is a park player himself.

There is a similar warmth to Lucy Gunning's video showing two women having a kickabout in the gallery. The location is no accident—the sight of women playing foot-

ball still tends to elicit an amused, self-consciously tolerant smile, and it is not so long since women artists had to endure the same kind of response.

It is a characteristic piece of work this is not the beautiful game, any more than it is Great Art; but it evidently matters a great deal. The players look faintly ridiculous, but they are utterly absorbed.

● Offside! Contemporary Artists and Football is at the Manchester City Art Galleries until September 1. Welcome, willkommen, bienvenue, new work by Virgil Tracey is at the Cornerhouse until September 8.



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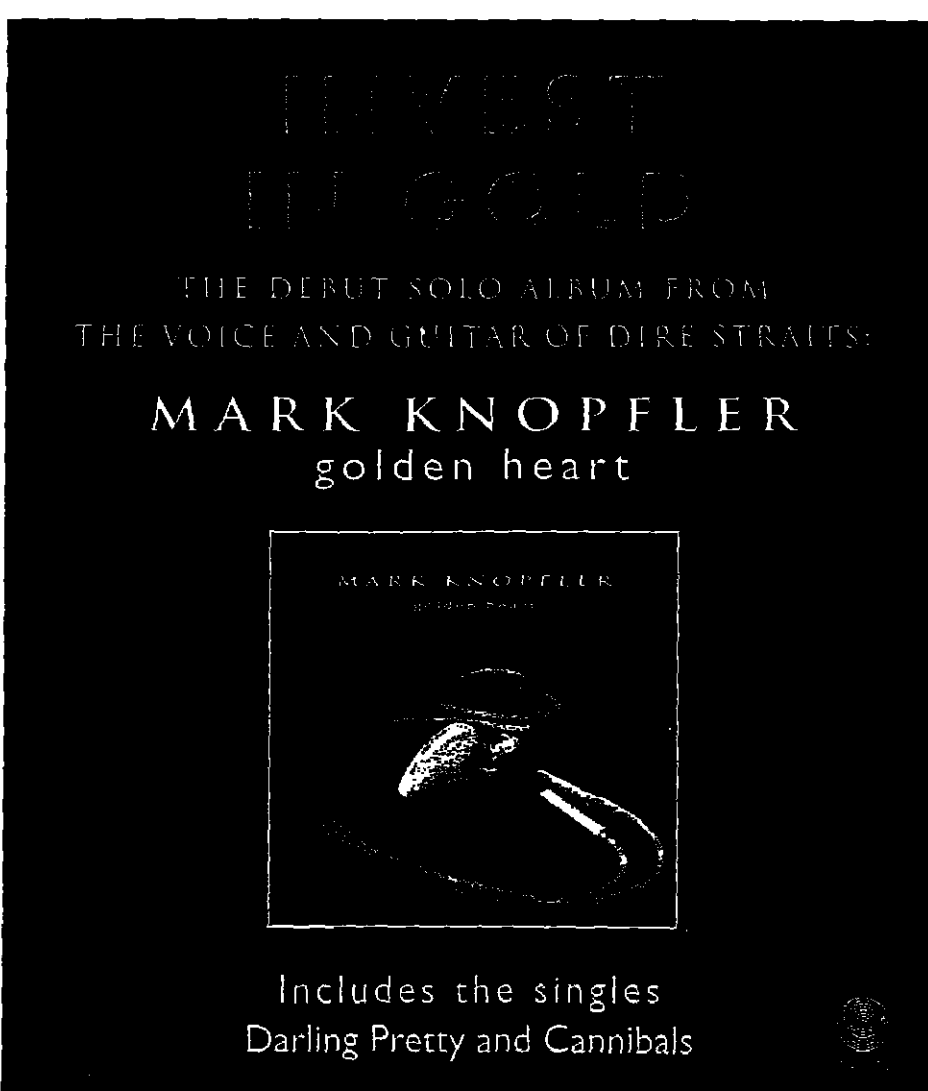
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CONCERTS

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Tickets also available from: Stagecoach 0171 734 9932, Ticketmaster 0171 344
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POP 1

From Nashville to the Borderline: BR5-49 prove to be more than the sum of their name



POP 2

... while the Californian trio Grant Lee Buffalo bring an epic touch to the Forum

THE TIMES ARTS



BASE NOTES

The London Coliseum will welcome Mikhail Baryshnikov for a dance season this summer



BASE NOTES

David Leveaux makes his musical theatre directing debut with a stage version of Fellini

OPERA AT GLYNDEBOURNE

Spare change for the better

WHEN Jamie MacDougall took over the part of Septimius in Glyndebourne's *Theodora*, he landed himself in a role which, although not a major one in Handel's great oratorio, is in many ways its emotional and spiritual pivot. Hilary Finch writes.

In having to enforce the death penalty — against the promptings of his own conscience — on those Christians who refused to worship the Roman gods on Emperor Diocletian's birthday, he embodies the powerful confrontation which leap out of Handel's music in this Peter Sellars production of profound musical and dramatic truth. Life denied and life affirmed; innocence and cynical experience; murderer and victim: the polarities clash and collide relentlessly.

MacDougall's robust tenor was not without difficulties the first night he sang. A gruff growl seemed at times lodged in the larynx. Yet with the support of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment playing as beautifully as I have ever heard them, he survived his ordeal. The playing seemed newly pointed, directed now from the harpsichord by Harry Bicket, making a premature debut as William Christie had been told to rest after a mild heart attack. Bicket will be in charge of the Glyndebourne Touring Opera autumn run: the regions are in for a rare treat.

WHEN it was first seen in 1991, the Glyndebourne production of *Così fan tutte* had the inestimable asset of the period-instrument Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Simon Rattle. Barry Millington writes. The pit has now been reclaimed by the modern instruments of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and when this year's revival opened under

the baton of Franz Welser-Möst, the response on this page was less than enthusiastic. David Parry has taken over the last six performances and has transformed the evening into one of pure delight.

Parry's tempos are fleet, his phrasing well pointed and his textures buoyant. The comic timing is as sharp in the pit as on the stage, and the wind-band music of Act II is played with especial precision and polish.

No cast change had originally been scheduled, but the American Dorabella, Susan Graham, asked to be released from the production early in the run (because of serious illness in the family) and the Ferrando, John Mark Ainsley, is also missing several performances through indisposition. Fortunately their understudies, chorus members Imelda Drumm and Andrew MacKenzie-Wicks, were more than ready to step in. Drumm demonstrated special assurance, both vocally and dramatically; her *Smania implacabile*, a model of controlled agitation, was articulated impressively, while *E amore un ladroncello* was negotiated in sprightly fashion.

MacKenzie-Wicks showed great promise in *Un'aura amorosa*, both affecting and evenly sung. In the second act, the strain began to tell, when *Tradito, schernito*, which had started with a fine show of fury, ran out of steam.

Solveig Kringsjorn's *Fioriligi* was confident if a little stately in tone; Simon Keenlyside's Guglielmo remains outstanding. Jake Gardner is the suave Don Alfonso, and Lillian Watson the resourceful Despina.

Trevor Nunn's production (revived by Michael McCarthy) is ingenious, perceptive and brilliantly theatrical.

POP CONCERTS

The adage that what goes around, comes around, came into full effect last Monday evening at London's Borderline. The hottest ticket of the night was for an American group that has become the talk of Nashville with a sound that belongs to the 1940s and 1950s.

And how brilliantly BR5-49 do it. The EP *Live From Robert's* was recently released here as a document of their residency at a "boots and beer" store in the country music capital. There they have whipped up a nightly storm — and filled their "tip jar" to overflowing — these past couple of years with an extraordinarily authentic homage to the music of such pioneers as Bob Wills, Hank Williams and Webb Pierce.

For added flavour, they throw their own originals into the pot, dress the part in snap-brim hats, bootlace ties or dungarees, and come across like time travellers on a mission from the seedling days of rock'n'roll.

Thus the Borderline heaved to two hours of BR5-49's irresistible mélange of Western swing, rockabilly and honky-tonk. In the early stages of this hurricane performance, the audience could only stand and gawk at a style that is so old it sounds fresh.

Their revue of the musical styles that shaped country music from the end of the war until the onset of the rock era was at once disciplined and hedonistic, with joint frontmen Chuck Mead and Gary Bennett trading favourites by Carl Perkins, Lefty Frizzell and other frontiersmen. All the while, "Smilin' Jay" McDowell beamed energetically on "dog-house" bass, Don Herron played the wizard of the dribble on steel guitar and fiddle, and Shaw Wilson donated the tightest of backbeats.

As they crooned, one caught in this hayseed style the addictive spirit that inspired the generation that followed, from Elvis Presley, through the Everly Brothers, to the



Crazy name, crazy guys: BR5-49 have become the next big thing in country by playing the music of the era when Elvis Presley was still driving a truck

Beatles. Every so often they threw in a contemporary piece such as *Little Ramona*, the tale of a punk rocker who goes "Hillbilly nuts". BR5-49's first studio album for Arista is out in September and promises to make all of us do the same.

The Californian trio Grant Lee Buffalo first came over here in 1993, with a personal recommendation from R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe, and their debut album *Fuzzy won* them many more fans. Ann Scanlon writes. They started their set at the Forum, in northwest London, with the epic suite *The Shining*, the opening track on that album, with front-man Grant Lee Phillips giving it all its original intensity as he played guitar opposite bassist Paul Kimble, while Joey Peters hit his kit with the kind of nonchalant ease more commonly associated with a jazz drummer.

Although the trio recalls the West Coast sound of the 1960s and Phillips's physical appearance and songwriting style have much in common with the young Tom Waits, Grant

Lee Buffalo can most easily be compared with the Waterboys. This became apparent early on when they played *Bethlehem Steel*, from their third and latest album, *Copperopolis*, in which Phillips sounded uncannily like Mike Scott during his *This is the Sea* period.

Much of the set was made up of songs from *Copperopolis*, Kimble helping to vary the pace by alternating between bass and piano. So the heavy-duty instrumental parts of songs such as *Two & Two* provided a marked contrast to ballads such as *Mockingbirds* and, particularly, *The Breach*.

However, anyone who witnessed Grant Lee Buffalo's memorable show at London's ICA three years ago will remember the trio for their sonic noise rather than their balladry, and they finished in memorable style, with both Phillips and Kimble burning their guitars up on *Fuzzy*.

This performance may have lacked the overall intensity of that ICA show but, like the trio's new album, it included some more subtle moments instead.

GREAT DRAMA AT THE ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

BOOKING OPENS ON MONDAY FOR...

The Oedipus Plays

Oedipus the King & Oedipus at Colonus

by Sophocles in a new translation by Ranjit Bolt (7 September - 30 November)

Peter Hall directs an outstanding cast led by Alan Howard in two of the most enduring and timeless Greek tragic dramas.

The Seven Streams of the River Ota

The Complete seven-part cycle conceived and performed by Ex Machina directed by Robert Lepage (21 September - 6 October)

Robert Lepage makes his eagerly awaited return to the National in this epic fable - focussing on the key events and cultural movements of the 20th century.

Blinded by the Sun

a new play by Stephen Poliakoff (from 28 August)

Duncan Bell, Douglas Hodge and Frances de la Tour lead the cast in this tale of greed, deception and jealousy, directed by Ron Daniels.

BOOKING ALREADY OPEN FOR...

John Gabriel Borkman

by Henrik Ibsen in a new version by Nicholas Wright (from 5 July)

In association with the Royal National Theatre's Private Contributors Richard Eyre's production of this compelling drama features Eileen Atkins, Michael Bryant, Vanessa Redgrave and Paul Scofield.

The Red Balloon

by Albert Lamorisse adapted for the stage by Anthony Clark with music by Mark Vibrams (20 July - 30 August)

This musical adaptation of a classic 50s film makes charming and magical theatre for children and adults alike.

Also currently in repertoire: *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC* music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler; *THE PRINCE'S PLAY* by Victor Hugo, in a new verse translation by Tony Harrison; *MARY STUART* by Friedrich Schiller, in a new translation by Jeremy Sams; *ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD* by Tom Stoppard; *The Royal National Theatre and Shared Experience* Theatre co-production of *WAR AND PEACE* adapted by Helen Edmundson from the novel by Leo Tolstoy; *STANLEY* a new play by Pam Gems.

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Baryshnikov dances back

IN HIS guise as modern dance superstar, Mikhail Baryshnikov is returning to London this summer. He is bringing his *White Oak Dance Project* to the London Coliseum (Aug 20-24). That's the company he formed in 1989, in partnership with the choreographer Mark Morris, after hanging up his ballet shoes forever. White Oak's season will showcase work by some of America's top contemporary choreographers, including Morris.

• ONCE again, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe is

BASE NOTES

boasting a bigger-than-ever programme which, claim the organisers, immodestly, makes it "the largest arts festival in the world since records began". The statistics are impressive: 9,154 performers taking to the stage in 14,060 performances of 1,238 shows in 187 venues. Among the more offbeat offerings: the complete story of the Bible in 90 minutes; the British stage premiere of *Reservoir Dogs*; and a three-course meal in the company of Doctor Faustus.

• DIRECTOR David Leveaux will make his musical theatre debut in December when he stages the belated London premiere of *Nine*, the Arthur Kopit-Maury Yeston adaptation of Fellini's *8½* that won Broadway's Best Musical Tony in 1982. The production, to be designed by Anthony Ward, will open at the Donmar Warehouse.

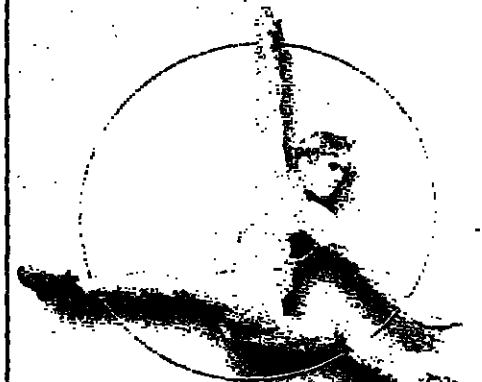
• POOR Matthew Hart. His first commission for English National Ballet, a Forties-inspired work called *Blitz*, was scheduled to have its world premiere in Cambridge last month. Severe production difficulties scuppered its planned debut on the night, as they did the following night. Undaunted, the young Covent Garden choreographer then looked forward to a world premiere, rescheduled for London this week. But just before the curtain rose at the Festival Hall on Monday night, leading man Roman Rykin pulled a muscle and once again *Blitz* was called off. Meanwhile, Hart's new *Cinderella* was to have been one of the star attractions in London over Christmas, danced by London City Ballet — which went bust this week.

• THE *Trainspotting* trio of Danny Boyle (director), Andrew Macdonald (producer), and John Hodge (writer) are turning to America for their first film. *A Life Less Ordinary*, due to start shooting later this year. The \$12 million film tells the story of a Scottish cleaner who kidnaps the daughter of his wealthy employer and sets off on a road trip across America. Ewan McGregor, who starred in the team's previous films, *Shallow Grave* and *Trainspotting*, is expected to play the lead role.

• THE British conductor Alan Francis has been named as the new principal conductor of the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano, the ensemble founded in 1991 when the radio orchestras of Rome and Milan were liquidated. Francis, who leaves his post as chief conductor of the Berliner Sinfoniker after seven years, will conduct 15 to 20 concerts per season in Milan.

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Royal balm for a blind, bitter land

John Grigg on George V's Belfast speech of 1921, which inaugurated peace at the price of Irish partition

Seventy-five years ago today, King George V landed in Belfast to open the new Parliament of Northern Ireland. He drove in a carriage from Donegal Quay to the City Hall, where the ceremony took place. As yet there was no Stormont, the grandiose parliament building there was not opened until 1932. After the ceremony at the City Hall, the Parliament occupied temporary quarters at the Presbyterian Theological College for more than a decade.

The speech that the King delivered on June 22, 1921, was no routine utterance, but one of the most striking and influential of his reign. And I have a strong personal interest in it, since it was written by my father, Edward Grigg (as the King's biographers, Harold Nicolson and Kenneth Rose, clearly state). At the time my father was working for the Prime Minister, Lloyd George, in the secretariat that he maintained at 10 Downing Street.

The circumstances of the speech are worth recalling. Under the Government of Ireland Act (1920) Ireland was partitioned into two legislative areas, of 26 counties in the South and six in the North. The partition took account of existing realities, but was never meant to be permanent, at any rate by Lloyd George. He genuinely desired a united Ireland, though preferably within the United Kingdom and certainly within the British Empire. But he had long believed that this could come about only by consent.

While establishing two Home Rule Parliaments in Ireland, the 1920 Act also provided facilities for union, or reunion. It set up a Council of Ireland with representatives from both sides, to which some specific powers were assigned, and which was free to extend its scope.

In the South, the Sinn Féin party, which had swept the poll in the 1918 general election, stood for total independence and therefore rejected the 1920 Act. It had created its own Dail under the presidency of Eamon de Valera, and some Sinn Féiners, led by Michael Collins, were engaged in a terrorist campaign against the British security forces and Irish civilians who served the Crown. To this, Lloyd George's Government was responding with a grimly effective counter-terror, using the Auxiliaries and the "Black and Tans".

The six-county North was dominated (as, of course, it still is) by the Scots-Irish Protestant Unionists, although the Gaelic-Irish Catholic minority constituted a third of the population. The charismatic leader of Ulster Unionism was Edward Carson, but he was not an Ulsterman, and in practice the man who counted was James Craig.

Ireland in June 1921 was, therefore, still part of the United Kingdom, but politically divided and in the grip of murderous violence. In going to Belfast to open the Northern Ireland Parliament, the King was taking a considerable risk. He did so without hesitation.

General Smuts, who happened to be in London for an Imperial Conference, advised him to use the occasion to send a message of peace to the whole of Ireland. This idea appealed to him, as it did to Lloyd George. But a draft speech prepared by Smuts did not find favour.

Lloyd George then asked my

father to prepare another, and his draft almost exactly coincides with the speech that was actually delivered. A few phrases were incorporated from a draft written by the elder statesman A.J. Balfour, but the speech was essentially my father's work, and he was responsible for the passage that made the greatest impact:

The eyes of the whole Empire are on Ireland today — that Empire in which so many nations and races have come together in spite of ancient feuds. I am emboldened by that thought to look beyond the sorrow and anxiety which have clouded of late my vision of Irish affairs. I speak from a full heart when I pray that my coming to Ireland today may prove to be the first step towards the end of strife amongst her people, whatever their race or creed.

In that hope I appeal to all Irishmen to pause, to stretch out the hand of forbearance and conciliation, to forgive and forget, and to join in making for the land they love a new era of peace, contentment and goodwill.

On his return to London, the King met at the station by Lloyd George and members of the Cabinet, and cheered by enthusiastic crowds on his way to Buckingham Palace. He lost no time in urging the Prime Minister to seize "the psychological moment", and Lloyd George responded by inviting de Valera and Craig to a conference in London.

On July 10, a truce was signed, and soon afterwards negotiations began which led at length to the Anglo-Irish agreement, or "treaty", of December 6, 1921.

Under this, the 26 counties became the Irish Free State, with a status equivalent to that of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The oath of allegiance was carefully worded to indicate that the Crown had no internal significance in the Free State, but was merely a symbol of its external link with other Commonwealth nations. Northern Ireland remained in the United Kingdom, but it was Lloyd George's hope that the two parts of Ireland would gradually grow together.

As we know, the 1921 treaty did not lead to a permanent solution of the Irish question. But it did produce an approximate state of peace for nearly half a century. The King's Belfast speech did not cause this, but it can fairly be regarded as an important contribution — just as his father's visit to Paris in 1913 was an important contribution to the entente cordiale.

It was not George V's fault, or Lloyd George's, that republican extremists in the Free State plunged the new country into civil war over a treaty that had been ratified by the Dail and endorsed by the people in an election. Nor was it their fault that partition was solidified over the years by narrow-minded leadership both North and South.

Above all, it is no fault of theirs that violent republicanism has revived as a threat to democratic government in both parts of Ireland. They did their best — as the promoters of the latest negotiations have been doing their best — but until the attempt to unite Ireland by force is finally abandoned, all dawn is bound to prove false.

The King risked his life for a peace that lasted half a century

The Tories prefer Californian 'work first' to Labour's Australian model, says Andrew Mitchell

Most lone parents want to move out of welfare dependency and back to work. In Britain the Government is tackling the problem through a two-pronged policy of maintenance and work incentives. But we are also looking abroad for new ideas.

Everyone agrees that the Child Support Agency had a bumpy start. But we have now almost doubled the average amount of maintenance that single parents bringing up children are awarded, and traced 137,000 absent parents who were previously paying nothing. Maintenance helps lone parents to return to work, as it is paid in addition to any wages they receive.

The Government has also introduced Family Credit to make work more worthwhile for people who could get only low-paid jobs. Since 1992, Family Credit has helped more than 200,000 lone parents to find work. We have also refined and improved the scheme by reducing the minimum hours of work needed to qualify, which helps parents who can only work part-time, and by taking into account the cost of childcare. In October, we will introduce the Back to Work Bonus, a savings scheme to help people to move from part-time to full-time work.

The aim of JET is laudable. It seeks to help single parents to overcome the barriers to work by assisting with education, training and job search. Lone parents are interviewed by JET advisers before being passed to other agencies for practical help, including childcare. The Australian Government is conducting a detailed study of JET's cost-effectiveness. We heard evidence which clearly contradicted initial claims that JET was self-

Lone parents need jobs, not training

Next Monday, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, Chris Smith, will unveil Labour's welfare spending plans, and he has already signalled that his approach will draw on Australia's programme for Jobs, Education and Training (JET). I have just returned from a fact-finding trip to Australia, where serious questions are now being raised about JET's effectiveness — questions which Mr Smith will need to answer.

Even more interesting were reports that JET, in addition to being costly, may not actually be helping lone parents back to work. In any one year only about 10 per cent of JET's clients found work, and many of these might have found work anyway. Education and training are clearly important. But there is a risk that by emphasising education and training as much as it does JET has discouraged lone parents from taking jobs they might otherwise have accepted.

financing. Reported figures apparently ignored the cost of most state-funded childcare, and took credit for all lone parents who found work, even though many would have returned to work even without JET's help. So the true cost of JET has been underestimated. But even before these factors are taken into account, the official figures show that in its first five years JET has cost taxpayers more than it saved.

I salute the new Australian Government for its efforts to improve its policies. But Australia is not the only model. It is to America and California that those who want to help lone parents back into work must turn. This is the only area where there has been an authoritative study of which scheme works best. In the late 1980s and early 1990s different counties in California experimented with varying approaches to help lone parents back to work. An independent evaluation clearly showed the success of a "work first" approach, and the failings of schemes biased heavily towards training, such as Australia's JET.

By far the best result was the one I visited in Riverside county in California, which increased client's earnings by more than \$3,000 over three years. Its approach, based on an active search for employment, using job clubs, has since been

copied by Los Angeles. This county had previously failed its clients because it concentrated too much on training and too little on encouraging people to take jobs. Now it has increased its job placement rate by 300 per cent in three years.

California's "work first" scheme, Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN), is encapsulated in its motto "a job, a better job, a career". GAIN focuses on getting people into jobs, however modest, and recognises that work experience is often the best qualification for a better job.

Next April, the Government will pilot a major new scheme to help lone parents find work. We will be studying the JET and GAIN programmes carefully to make sure that our pilot avoids the mistakes and emulates the successes of schemes in other countries.

But our single-minded intention is to ensure that a paying job results — to the advantage of the lone parent as well as the taxpayer.

Andrew Mitchell, MP, is the Minister at the Department of Social Security with responsibility for the Child Support Agency and lone parent issues.

The greatest show on earth

We grumble about the Millennium Exhibition, but we shall be glad of it

There is always a right time for a party. There is never a right time for a party. For every party-giver there are ten souls with worthy causes clamouring for the money. Yet the world would be a dreary place if it could not celebrate the passage of time. As we meet life's milestones we add a pebble to the pile and raise a defiant glass to the Grim Reaper.

There will be a Millennium Exhibition in London in the year 2000. This week the Millennium Commission (in which I declare an interest) not only confirmed its backing for the Circle of Time project at Greenwich, it also declared the exhibition robust enough to proceed. It will happen. At least £350 million will be involved, of which £200 million is coming from the National Lottery and the rest from business sponsorship. The commission is not a government department and could not back an exhibition on a wing, a prayer and a bottomless pocket, as is the case with most national exhibitions.

The Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich will be the most spectacular show in Europe. Not Germany, not France, not Italy, certainly not Brussels, have anything comparable in mind. The Circle of Time proposed by Gary Withers and his team at Imagination will be unveiled next month. At the top of the Greenwich peninsula a circular clock of 12 zones, covering a footprint the size of a stadium, will chime away the millennium year. Each pavilion will embrace a temporal theme: time past, time future, discovery time, life time, space time, world time. Its motto might be Horace's *Carpe Diem*: seize each day before it escapes.

The exhibition will be unlike any other I have seen, but is loosely based on the "experience" shows popular in America. These make use of multimedia, audiovisual and interactive displays, as at America's Smithsonian Museum and the burgeoning science exploratoriums. Just as zoo visitors no longer want to see animals in cages, so exhibition visitors are no longer overawed by objects in cases or pictures on walls. They look to be

transported, in time or space, to be intellectually and emotionally engaged. (A brilliant if grim example is the American Holocaust Museum in Washington.) As London found last year on VE-Day, even those with no connection with an anniversary will happily join in its celebration.

The millennium show (on a site a mile downstream of Greenwich Palace) will be in a still depressed part of London. It will emphasise and use the River Thames and the new Tube link to the East End, thus joining the Isle of Dogs development in shifting London's centre of gravity away from the West End. Equally important, the exhibition will not just be in London. From the end of next year a number of giant spheres will travel round British cities, each inviting local contributions to the theme of time. These spheres will come to Greenwich in 2000 as part of the Circle. Every corner of the nation will thus have its stake in the exhibition and be able

to feel that this is partly its show. There is no point in disputing that the millennium concept has brought out the British genius for paradox. As a frequent sceptic of such rituals, I have found it salutary to encounter the fierce cynicism with which many Britons approach anything that smacks of celebration. Thus, if an exhibition might celebrate the past, it is shamefully neglecting the future. If it celebrates the world, it is failing to stand up for Britain. If it celebrates Britain, it is narrowly chauvinist. It is outrageous to mount a big show in London, yet equally outrageous to hold a national exhibition anywhere else.

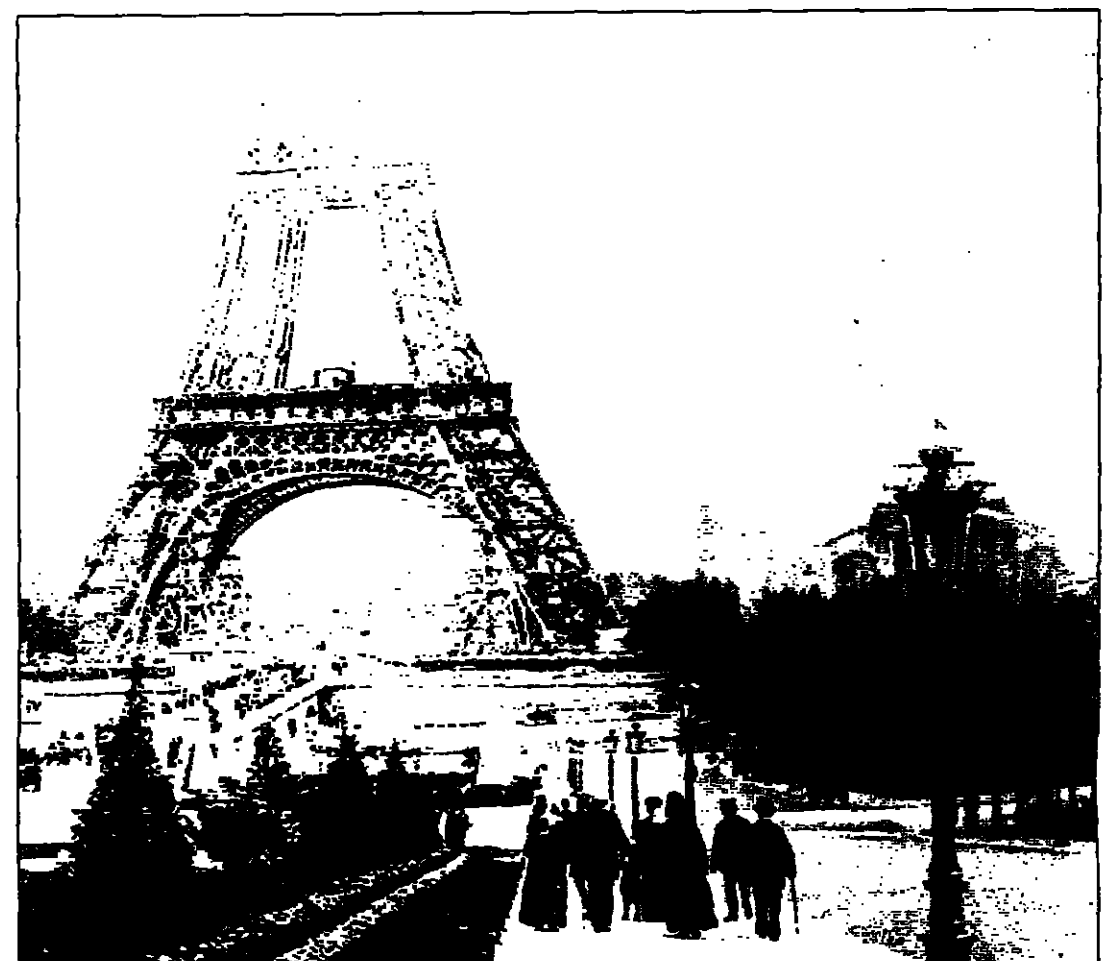
The ambition of the Greenwich show is to sweep aside these paradoxes. The last collective display of British national spirit was the 1951 Festival of Britain. It was a Herculean undertaking at a time of postwar austerity, its momentum supplied by a small coterie of like-minded designers and exhibitors. Despite appalling weather, the South Bank show was a success because it was completed with panache. It had stylistic conviction because it was led from the top and from the public sector.

This leadership has been denied the Millennium Commission. No paradox has been as great as that which underpins the exhibition's constitution. When the Lottery was set up, a Government nervous that funds raised from gambling might be spent by the great and good on personal foibles insisted that the distributors could only make grants. They could not initiate projects themselves. The approach reflected the Thatcherite enthusiasm for privatisation and distaste for public-sector leadership.

In the case of the millennium celebrations, the commission could ask if anyone wanted a celebration, and subsidise it. It could not propose or plan its own. The exhibition had to be privately sponsored and privately run. This hands-off approach has proved a close-run thing. Central and local government will help with infrastructure. But the exhibition will be in the hands of a private company, chaired by Robert Ayling of British Airways. Its only grant will come from the lottery. Development gain from the project remains a matter of negotiation, but the project is still within its critical path.

Public gambling is a controversial way of financing public projects. Lottery money can easily become a substitute for normal public expenditure. One virtue of the lottery was the insistence that money raised would be for projects that would not normally get taxpayer support. For the arts, sport and local and national charities the money is mostly for one-off buildings or other capital works, not for routine costs covered by internal revenue or existing public expenditure. The lottery is for the exceptional, the not-absolutely-necessary, the minority case. This has given lottery projects a status distinct from, say, hospitals and schools and protected them from the harsh language of priorities.

Nonetheless, whenever other people's money is used in this way there are cries of unfairness. The welfare state always sings the best tunes. With public investment under perpetual squeeze in Britain, those who claim any money for public buildings must, I believe, be prepared to stand up and defend them. The Millennium Exhibition is such a project. It is likely to cost



Anything they can do: the Eiffel Tower in 1888, completed for the Paris Exhibition a year later

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the lottery £200 million. Many of Britain's biggest companies have supported it with their sponsorship. Both the Government and the Opposition are determined it should go ahead. But the challenge is on to prove the game worth this giant candle.

In one of his more poignant comments on the British, Burke said that "those who carry on great public schemes must be proof against the most fatiguing delays, the most mortifying disappointments, the most shocking insults and the presumptuous judgment of the ignorant on their designs". I am convinced that the Millennium Exhibition can meet such a challenge, but only by being sensational, by its sheer quality, by exciting and astonishing the world. Britain is constantly accused of no longer being able to stage something truly big and spectacular — something to which the Victorian spirit could be applied. I believe it can.

Simon Jenkins is a member of the Millennium Commission.

Not cricket

FOR THE first time during a Test match which England could win, sections of the crowd will be praying for rain at Lord's today. In a break with tradition, England's Euro 96 quarter-final with Spain will be shown on the big screen overlooking the ground — but only if the cricket is off.

Normally the screen, situated above the Edrich Stand at Lord's, shows replays and highlights from the cricket in progress on the field.



Dearly beloved. We are gathered here...

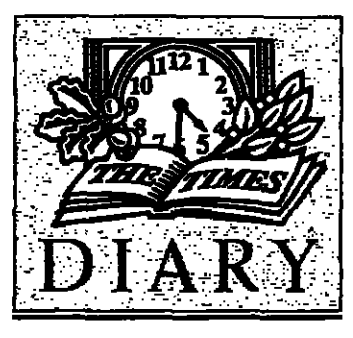
The Test and County Cricket Board has taken the extraordinary decision to show "the winter game" because of the unparalleled excitement about the fixture.

A number of tickets have been returned to Lord's by cricket followers who have decided to watch the football instead. The radios of those who do turn up are less likely to be tuned into ball-by-ball commentary than into the England-Spain match. As always at Lord's, they will only be allowed with an accompanying earphone.

Should the weather hold, the only option for football fans will be to sneak away at 3pm to a nearby pub. The television sets dotted around the members' areas are jealously guarded by those who turn up for the event but follow proceedings on the box. "There will be no football watching in here," growled one gin-soaked sentinel of the TV room yesterday.

Barking mad

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Bob Dole's yapping dog created some tension the other day among neighbours of his apartment in the Watergate building, Washington. A



septuagenarian couple fuelled by pre-prandial Martinis passed the door of his flat, sparking the mutt into its customary barking frenzy. The lady fell to her hands and knees and started barking back, scratching at the door. Her partner looked on, convulsed with giggles.

After minutes of barking, she looked up to see a polished brogue step neatly over her. A key turned and the door opened. Mr Dole had returned home. Combining the dignity of Captain Mainwaring with the sangfroid of Baroness Thatcher, he ignored his lunatic neighbours and stepped inside.

Alison Moyet, the singer who will be belting out her version of the national anthem today for the football at Wembley, is delighted to have been asked to perform even though it will be the first time she has left her four-week-old daughter, Caitlin. "I agreed so I could get

tickets for the match," says the devoted Southend fan.

Pink whisky

QUENTIN CRISP, the 88-year-old queen of camp, arrived floppy-hatted in Edinburgh from New York yesterday to launch his own brand of whisky, the Quentin Crisp Single Cask. Despite rumblings among some of the more traditional kiln-brewers, Scotland's homosexual community has been hailing this as the world's first whisky for gays.

"I'm looking forward to having a little drink of whisky later on," said the frail old gent when he arrived.



Moyet: national anthem

"And I'm hoping to bump into an old boozing buddy. I can't remember his name but he was a fat man who drank all day long." Now there aren't many people of that description in Scotland, I'm sure.

Fancy footwork from Tony Blair's first AI. His office has rescheduled the launch of a document called Road to the Manifesto on June 26 in case it clashes with an England semi-final. As I reported last week, the Prime Minister is to make a key speech on the constitution at the Centre for Policy Studies just as the game kicks off. He clearly has less faith in the team than Mr Blair.

Short story

CLARIDGE'S Hotel has narrowly escaped a drugs and dwarfs orgy, if the writer Will Self is to be believed. Self enjoys boasting of his consumption of illegal drugs and recently stayed at the hotel, planning with a group of pals to "lay waste to the minibar" and then consume South American "head-borne honking" powder off the bald pate of a dwarf called Henriques.

It seems his planning was all talk. He managed to drink a fair amount, but felt "hideously out of place" in the hotel. "We couldn't find the whereabouts to trash the place," he writes in *Esquire* maga-



Transatlantic cousins? Livingstone, left, and Strathclyde

zine. To cap all this, he didn't manage to take any drugs. His excuse? Henriques cut his head shaving.

Cheek by jowl

COULD they by any chance be related? Craig Livingstone, the director of the White House personnel security office who was dismissed on Wednesday, bears a striking resemblance to one of our most likeable parliamentarians, Lord Strathclyde.

Thomas Strathclyde, a comfortably-built Tory peer who enjoys a good lunch as well as a flutter on the horses, has an unenviable job



as Government Chief Whip in the House of Lords. He was the youngest-ever Privy Councillor, and he was game enough to take on as his first public engagement the launch of an on-street poop-scoop dispenser scheme. I am assured that, while Livingstone has taken "administrative leave", Strathclyde goes from strength to strength.

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's colt Struggler lived up to its name yesterday in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot. The nag failed to finish in the first six.

P.H.S.



A HUMAN WRONG

Britain must find better remedies for unfounded asylum claims

The Government's policy of depriving some categories of applicants for refugee status of social security benefits, in force since February, has received a stinging rebuke in the Court of Appeal. By a majority of two to one, the judges found that the regulations introduced by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, are an unlawful pre-emption of the will of Parliament. The Government claims that it lost only on the "narrow" issue that primary legislation is necessary. On the contrary: the court's findings rested on the broadest possible basis.

In the words of Lord Justice Simon Brown, these regulations "necessarily contemplate for some a life so destitute that to my mind no civilised nation can tolerate it. So basic are the human rights here at issue that it cannot be necessary to resort to the European Convention on Human Rights to take note of their violation." He had no quarrel with Mr Lilley's aim of discouraging economic migrants from pursuing asylum claims. But he insisted that Parliament cannot have intended the actual result, which is to force genuine asylum-seekers either to abandon their claims to refugee status, or to persist while reduced to "a state of utter destitution". Lord Justice Waite, assenting, argued that it rendered the rights of a very large number of asylum-seekers — rights recognised by Britain under international law — "valueless in practice".

The Government's case is twofold: that Britain's generous benefits have encouraged a surge of bogus claims; and that British taxpayers should not be expected to support people whose claims are spurious. It has therefore abolished benefits for two large categories of applicants — those who applied only after arriving in this country, rather than at the port of entry, and those waiting for their appeals against rejected applications to be heard. It argues, further, that bogus applications have clogged up the system of review, and that this deterrent will speed it up to the benefit of genuine refugees. The problem with regulations drafted so

sweepingly is that they affect genuine refugees along with bogus claimants. One example illustrates how ill-conceived this is. The Government this week accepted a Lords amendment to the Bill, agreeing that individuals who claim that they have been tortured are entitled to a specially thorough consideration of their claim. But if they fall into these two wide categories, they will still be deprived of benefits.

In the four months that these regulations have been in force, there has been some diminution in applications for asylum. But the backlog of unheard applications is still 67,630. Even with extended "fast track" procedures, new claims take an average of 19 months to process. Some take far longer: at the end of last year, 15 per cent of those who applied for asylum in 1991 still had not had their cases heard; the appeals process can take up to three years. Deprived of benefit and in many cases forbidden to work, how are those in this long queue to live? By begging? By crime? There is a case for adopting the practice followed in other European countries, where asylum-seekers receive hostel accommodation and essentials but little or no cash. There is none for discriminatory deprivation.

There is a better way to lighten the burden on taxpayers, deter bogus applicants and lessen the agony of prolonged uncertainty for genuine refugees. It is to the evident malfunctioning in the Home Office — and in the deportation services, which secure the departure from Britain of only a tiny percentage of those whose applications are finally rejected — that ministers should look. The Dutch Government processes 16 per cent of applicants within 24 hours, and immediately departs those it rejects. It cannot be beyond the powers of invention for Britain to speed up its procedures. The denial of benefits is the wrong remedy for the problem that the Government seeks to address. To persist in this mistaken policy would be to compound the injustice identified by their lords.

FLORENTINE RIDDLES

Plots, subplots and no definite script for the final act

Niccolò Machiavelli, that Florentine master of political intrigue, would have looked with some amusement upon the *commedia* being acted out this week in his home city. Each character claims to have played a trick upon the other; and in an arcane subplot, the prince's adviser tries to advance his own interests at his master's expense.

First David Davis: as Machiavelli wrote nearly half a millennium ago, "when you see that the adviser thinks more about himself than about you, and that in all his deeds he seeks his own interests, such a man as this will never be a good adviser and you will never be able to trust him." Mr Davis deserves a Cabinet post in the next reshuffle. But, if he gets one, John Major's decision would be characterised by the Renaissance sage as "excessive mercy".

Secondly, to the main plot: the beef deal hammered out and agreed yesterday, is, according to the British, a triumph. A new concession was seemingly added at the last minute on exports to third countries. The wording ensures that decisions about lifting the beef bans will be taken purely on scientific and public health grounds by the European Commission. Member states will not be able to object to its decision, and nor will politics be allowed to intrude.

This is a hope more than a claim. As an article of fact it has as much force as a love song from a Florentine waiter. Our partners remain wary. The third country addendum was instantly dismissed as meaningless by representatives of other member states. The British may be delighted that decisions are to be unclouded by politics. The others see the clause as protecting their own public health from Britain's politics.

SCOTT'S MYTHS

Spinning yarns can inspire as much as spinning webs

Scotland is the land of myths and bold untruthfulness. Tall tales are woven around Caledonian heroes thicker than any Harris tweed. From Bonnie Prince Charlie's flight through the heather to Bismarck Wood's march on Dunsinane the stories of Scotland's past are particularly embroidered in the telling. Like the *Faerie Flag* that hangs behind glass in Dunvegan Castle, most of these myths are too beautiful, fragile and inspiring to bear too close an inspection.

Now one of the most precious stories ever attached to the name of a Great Scot has fallen subject to rude revisionism. Historians say that Robert the Bruce never saw the spider whose persistence spurred him to try and try again. Arguing that Bruce never encountered the energetic arachnid is akin to claiming that William Tell was a bad shot, that George Washington framed the foot for the cherry tree incident or that El Cid couldn't handle a horse. It is a direct hit on the reputation of a nation's founding father. In Bruce's case, it is all the more wounding for most likely being true.

As we report on page 15 no mention of Bruce's seeing the spider was made in the first account of his life. The Aberdeen cleric century epic poem by the Aberdeen cleric John Barbour. The first occasion on which a spider story surfaces in a printed source is in Home of Godscroft's chronicle of the doings of the Douglas family where Bruce's gener-

al, the Black Douglas, is said to have been inspired by the plucky little fellow. Douglas was one of the tiny band who stayed true to Bruce in the dark days before victory — a slim source of historical hope for his politically embattled descendant, the Scots Tory MP Lord James Douglas-Hamilton.

The spider was snatched, so to speak, from Douglas's grasp and thrown into Bruce's lap by Scotland's most elegant myth-maker, Sir Walter Scott. The Laird of Abbotsford was past master at playing fast and loose with fact and fiction. He put the Hanoverian King George IV in a pantomime version of the Highland dress his ancestor had once proscribed. In his novels, Scott made heroes of Whiggish Covenanters and Tory Jacobites alike: his historical tapestry was as complex, colourful, bewildering and bogus as any souvenir tartan.

Behind all Scott's ingenuity lay the Romantic Tory wish to construct a glorious past for Scots that would help them to flourish in the Union as proud partner rather than sullen satellite. In order to serve the greater truth, that Scotland had much to be proud of, Scott took liberties with smaller truths, such as which bonny fechter was inspired in his cave by the spider. Scott's story may have been as flimsily fixed to evidence as was the spider's web to the cave. But, as Scott knew well, not even Scotland's cause is so noble that it can do without a spin-doctor.

Teaching teachers classroom criteria

From Mr Michael Reading

Sir, I welcome your leading article today emphasising the need for newly qualified teachers to have an adequate level of practical classroom skills, but I am puzzled by the Education Secretary's apparent sudden need to establish a national curriculum for teacher training courses.

Governors and others appointing teachers rely on the fact that those teachers are "recognised" as qualified by Mrs Shephard's own department — as evidenced by the teacher's individual Department for Employment and Education number — and on the fact that the teacher will have achieved qualified teacher status by successful completion of a course which the DfEE has recognised or approved.

Are we now to assume that the Education Department has been granting approval for such courses without having any minimum criteria of what is required in the classroom, but now magically has all the answers? Or have the Secretary of State and her predecessors been presiding over a department which knew all the time what was required — but failed in its duty to use that knowledge?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL READING,
Haven House,
364 Chessington Road, Ewell, Surrey,
June 13.

From Mrs R. Pozerskis

Sir, I reacted with incredulous laughter to the idea that teachers' colleges should teach teachers the basic skills of teaching. What, might I ask, is taught at the moment?

Yours faithfully,
R. POZERSKIS,
46 The Woodlands,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire,
June 13.

From Mr Steve Mills

Sir, I was disappointed to see your leading article recycling tired old prejudices about what goes on inside teacher-training institutions. No lecturer knows to "spend a large proportion of their time talking about the psychology of education", not least because, under the Government circulars 16/89 and 14/93, there simply isn't time for such perceived frivolity.

Of course, the distillation of best practice ought to be central to what goes on in our teacher training. It will come as a surprise to those who do not wish for facts to intrude upon a good prejudice, that it already is.

Yours disappointedly,
S. J. MILLS,
65 Norton Road,
Wootton, Reading, Berkshire,
June 13.

From Mrs E. Graham

Sir, I couldn't agree more with your leading article that the best place for trainee teachers to learn is in school.

Over 30 years ago, when I was at teacher-training college in Scotland, students in the first year were sent on teaching practice every Friday — even in the first week of the first term. Nervous as we all were it proved to be invaluable. Our experiences were used in discussions Monday to Thursday in both the refectory and in the lecture rooms.

In the second year we went to another school for a whole term. By the end of our third and final year we had observed a variety of teaching methods used by experienced members of staff in three different schools. We appreciated also the many unforeseen everyday problems which can arise when coping with a class of children.

Yours faithfully,
E. GRAHAM,
18 Brighton Road, Banstead, Surrey,
June 17.

From Dr Gordon Van Praagh

Sir, According to George Bernard Shaw, "He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches." I would add: "He who cannot teach, trains teachers."

Yours faithfully,
GORDON VAN PRAAGH,
25 Blackwater Lane,
Crawley, West Sussex,
June 18.

As she wrote

From Mr Richard Finer

Sir, It is normally hoped that students emerging from our universities are well educated and more knowledgeable than they were in their chosen fields of study. What is not explained in the prospectuses is that students, like me, who want to enjoy any sort of social life must first learn another language.

I refer, of course, to the corrupted form of English which nightclubs and bars, amongst others, feel they must use to communicate to their clients. We are constantly told that there will be cheap drinks all night, and that entry is £4 11pm. If all this is not enough, a university friend wrote to me expressing her *thaxx* and ended by sending me *lova lov*.

Doesn't anybody write the Queen's English anymore?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FINER,
24 Jesmond Way,
Stanmore, Middlesex,
June 19.

Weekend Money letters, page 45

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Fair methods of controlling the export of works of art

From Mr George J. Levy

Sir, Next month the important pair of side tables made for Chiswick House, which surely should be returned to Chiswick, are to be sold. This sale highlights once again the impossibilities of raising sufficient funds before an auction to ensure the success of keeping furniture, paintings or other works of art of national importance in this country, when the owner prefers the auction gamble to offering such artefacts directly to the nation (letters, May 27, 31; June 17).

Auction is, of course, a means of establishing the open-market value which a buyer is prepared to pay, but the nation knows that if the destination is overseas the Reviewing Committee of the Export of Works of Art is waiting in the wings to put a temporary stop on the object leaving the country. This is in order to give our institutions an opportunity of raising matching funds to keep the object in Britain. But isn't this a bit like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut?

In any case, the procedure poses problems for both vendors and purchasers. The vendor receives neither funds nor interest on the capital during the period of the export stop (which in certain circumstances could be as long as two years); and the overseas buyer is kept in suspense during this period, not knowing if he will ever

own what he has purchased. A far more satisfactory method might be to encourage owners, in the first instance, to seek the advice of the Museums and Galleries Commission in establishing, through independent assessors, a fair value with which a deal could be struck privately with the nation. The MGC already takes on this responsibility well for the Government when works of art are ceded to the nation in satisfaction of inheritance tax. Why not also for cases such as the Chiswick tables — only using auction as a last resort?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
H. Blairman & Sons Ltd,
119 Mount Street, W1,
June 21.

From the Director of the Tate Gallery

Sir, I fully support the comments made by the Chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission (letter, June 17) on the 1994 refusal of an export licence for *The Painter's Room* by Lucian Freud (1943).

This case raises two issues about the export of work by living artists. The first is whether there should be such a ban, and it is my view that there will be rare occasions when the early work of a living artist is of such quality that a stop is appropriate.

The Secretary of State for National

Heritage is currently asking for views on this and the Tate has submitted a paper which argues that a stop should depend on the merit of the work, rather than whether the artist is alive or dead. The export licensing rules are there to allow Britain to retain truly outstanding works of any period.

There is also the problem of what happens when the export is stopped, a public institution makes an offer of the full value, but the exporter wants neither to sell nor to display the work in Britain. The purchaser of this Freud has declined an offer from the Tate Gallery, which was made with the support of the Friends of the Tate Gallery, the National Art Collections Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

In view of Mr J. W. T. Martin's comments (letter, May 27) I think it should be explained that works of art (along with drugs and armaments) are exempt from the European Community's principle of free movement of goods. Also that the British Government's rules controlling the export of works of art are exceptionally fair, and that in many countries the export of such a painting would simply not be allowed in any circumstances.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SEROTA,
Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1,
June 19.

Standard of current affairs reporting

From Mr Tim Renton, MP for Mid Sussex (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader, "The fallen mighty" (June 18), totally misses the point of the Commons motion on standards of reporting in the press signed by more than 50 MPs, including seven from the Opposition.

It does not demand more space on your pages for House of Commons debates or stories. It asks for a higher standard, from the broadsheets, of the reporting and analysis of current affairs, including politics, and suggests that "the editors of those national papers that aim to contribute significantly to opinion-forming should demonstrate a more serious and less personal approach, and seek to achieve more balanced coverage and comment in relation to public issues and political developments".

Less personal? Your leader names me five times, imputing — surprisingly and extraneously — various malevolent intentions to me because I am a known pro-European. The relevance escapes me. From the tone of the leader, I suspect that our dart has hit a bulls-eye in Wapping.

Yours truly,
TIM RENTON,
House of Commons,
June 19.

From Sir Timothy Sainsbury, MP for Hove (Conservative), and Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP for Walsden (Conservative)

Sir, There was widespread agreement about the importance of the Family

Law Bill. The report stage on Monday covered a number of important amendments, some of which were subject to free votes.

Your front page report refers to a number of amendments. If any of your readers wished to know what the amendments were, however, or how they were decided, they would have looked in vain.

They were referred to page 2, where Matthew Parris wrote his parliamentary sketch with his customary skill and wit, or to page 18 where a feature by Libby Purves recognised the importance of family life and divorce.

Those who received early editions were also referred to page 8, headed "Politics and Government", where your legal correspondent detailed the changes in the new law, but this did not appear in the later editions.

Yet the Tuesday paper had space for two pages on the way we eat, major reports on Maryland crab fishers and archaeological research at the Tower of London. Page 3 had the headlines, "Woman suffered severe trauma after strip-tease" and "Husband threw wife overboard in marital storm". Is this what you mean when your editorial defends your papers' failure to report Parliament on the grounds that you are concerned about "the use of power where it is exercised"?

Yours faithfully,
TIM SAINSBURY,
GEOFFREY JOHNSON SMITH,
House of Commons,
June 19.

Lord's Prayer

From Mr David Powell

Sir, It is the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, not the wording (report, June 17), that is paramount. Any attempt by the Churches to get nearer to it in modern English is to be welcomed.

But our Christian MPs have long failed to support the position of the mainstream Churches, whether it be on Sunday trading, the National Lottery (which breaks at least two of the Ten Commandments), or aid to the poorest of the poor.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID POWELL,
31 Bush Hill, Northampton,
June 17.

From Mr E. G. Faulder

Sir, I feel sure that the proposal to substitute in the Lord's Prayer the line "Save us from the time of trial" for "Lead us not into temptation", will meet with the wholehearted approval of the persons who recently, on three separate occasions, burgled our parish church.

Yours etc,
E. G. FAULDER,
Oakbank,
Longtown, Carlisle, Cumbria,
June 17.

From Mr A. W. Bell

Sir, Why not simply say: "Lead us out of temptation"?

Yours faithfully,
A. W. BELL,
18 Carlton Approach,
Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

Organ transplants

From Mrs June O'Sullivan

Sir, Sir Magdi Yacoub's view (article, June 10) that it would be hypocritical to criticise people for using animal organs for human heart transplants because man already eats them, defies belief.

What about the views of vegetarians and people of certain religious denominations opposed both to the use of animals for food and the use of animal organs for spare-part surgery, not necessarily for ethical reasons but because of the too apparent lack of success? The medical establishment should be addressing

Painted ladies

From Dr Denis F. Owen

Sir, It is not just East Anglia that has received swarms of painted lady butterflies (News in brief, June 12). Reports from around the country suggest a huge northward migration on a front extending from East Kent to Dorset and the Gower Peninsula.

On June 7, assisted by a warm southerly wind, they migrated northward through my garden at a rate of 72 an hour. The migration continued non-stop for seven hours. Over 500 must have passed through the garden on a front about 10 metres wide. These figures indicate a phenomenal northward movement on just one day.

My garden has also received exceptional numbers of immigrant moths, especially silver-ys and rush veneers, as well as rarer species, such as bordered straws and small mottled willows.

This mass exodus from North Africa and southern Europe is probably the biggest since the memorable painted-lady years of 1945 and 1947.

It is tempting to ascribe unusual weather of some sort as the cause, but the truth is that no one really knows. "Expert" claims notwithstanding.

But it is certain that something must have gone wrong to the south of us for so many painted ladies to flee north.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS F. OWEN,
42 Little Wittenham Road,
Long Wittenham,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire,
June 12.

Left holding the baby

From Mrs Susan A. Sussman

Sir, It's really terribly simple: most women are right-handed, therefore it is logical to carry your baby on the left and leave the right hand free for other tasks (report, June 21). Most scientists are male and would not consider doing two things at the same time.

Yours faithfully,
S. SUSSMAN,
55 Springfield Road, NW8,
June 21.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Ulster's future

From Mr J. Enoch Powell

Sir, Congratulations on Simon Jenkins's contribution on Northern Ireland ("Death of a Peace Process", June 19). The only salvation for Northern Ireland is to govern it like any other part of the United Kingdom, that is to say with local government having responsibility but only for the same subjects as in the rest of the United Kingdom, which remain to be dealt with by Parliament, where Ulster is fully represented.

That is the only way to entrench the Union and put an end to the hopes of the IRA, which will carry on as long as there is a prospect of detaching Ulster from Britain.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
ENOCH POWELL,
33 South Eaton Square, SW1,
June 20.

Criminal records

From Dr Kingsley Jones

Sir, I have found no reference in your report (June 20) to the right of would-be employees (ie, most of us) to access the criminal records of potential employers. It would be very helpful to a cleaning lady to know if her new boss had "form" for credit fraud or sexual harassment.

Yours faithfully,
K. JONES,
The Firs, 19 Norton Road,
Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk,
June 20.

The bear facts

From Mrs Diana May

Sir, Your diary reports (June 17) that Jonathan Miller has "gone public" in a radio programme about his passion for the duffel coat. But where is the BBC's ursine sartorial correspondent?

Rupert Bear, he of the red sweater, yellow checked trousers and matching scarf, should never be confused with Paddington Bear, who eschewed Peruvian national costume in favour of wellies, sou'wester and, memorably, duffel coat.

Yours etc,
DIANA MAY,
265 Swaleleys Road,
Ickenham, Middlesex,
June 17.

Fuming

From the Rector of Framlingham

Sir, One hopes that your advice to vulcanologists not to mess with Vesuvius (leading article, June 19) will not go unheeded. However, a greater provocation to the mountain must surely be the early ejection of the talented Italian football team from Euro 96, to the dismay of all lovers of flair in sport.

The Italian nation must make such propitiation to the volcano as may be necessary. As for the European footballing authorities, they should in all future competitions guarantee Italy a place in the quarter-finals, no matter how badly she does in the earlier rounds, or accept responsibility for the volcanic consequences.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILLCOCK,
Framlingham Rectory, Suffolk,
June 20.

OBITUARIES

THE REV DAVID NICHOLLS

The Rev David Nicholls, priest and theologian, died while undergoing surgery in Oxford on June 13 aged 60. He was born in Woking on June 3, 1936.

DAVID NICHOLLS was a rare phenomenon in today's world of professional pigeon-holing: a writer of important and influential academic works who never held a mainstream academic post, a theologian whom the Church of England found it difficult to accommodate.

He was amused as well as irritated by his lack of recognition and ecclesiastical preference. He knew, perhaps, that to be appointed to one of the chairs for which he applied would, in fact, have been to enter a bureaucratic trap. *Faute de mieux*, therefore, he came to live as an old-style country parson of the best sort, working since 1978 in the parish of St Mary's Littlemore, near Oxford (and thus near the Bodleian Library), and issuing a far more substantial stream of books and articles — in qualitative as well as in quantitative terms — than those who got the jobs for which he applied. He made theology matter in the world of secular academia; and he showed religious people that good intentions and kindly thinking are not enough.

Nicholls was influential in three main areas of writing. He was a leading authority on Haiti, his views being summarised in *From Dessalines to Duvalier: race, colour and national independence* (1979), which has become a classic. *Economic dependence and political autonomy: the Haitian experience* (1974), and *Haiti in Caribbean context: ethnicity, economy and revolt* (1985). He travelled frequently and sometimes dangerously there and in the rest of the Caribbean and was much in demand as a speaker, especially in the United States.

Yet his doctoral thesis had been on a quite different subject, the British theological political theorist John Neville Figgis, for which he was supervised in Cambridge by Alec Vidler. Never published as such, its analysis of pluralism appeared as *Church and State in Britain since 1820* (1967), *Three Varieties of Pluralism* (1974) and *The Pluralist State* (1975) and in a stream of articles with titles such as "The totalitarianism of Thomas Arnold" and "Few are chosen: some reflections on the politics of A. J. Balfour".

Nicholls was a sharp analyst of Victorian theology with none of the integrating ecumenism fashionable today. His many articles on John Henry Newman (whose own old parish at Littlemore he held) were blistering attacks on what he saw as Newman's vacuous, self-indulgent, unadmitted authoritarianism. He powerfully disliked Henry Scott Holland and the liberal catholicism characterised by the *Lux Mundi* movement.



Nicholls then broadened his interest in the relations of Church and State into what he saw as his credo: a trilogy, working from the present backwards, examining the symbiotic relationship of theology, philosophy and politics in England. The first two volumes were *Deity and Dominion: Images of God and State in the 19th and 20th Centuries* (1989) (given as the Hulsean Lectures at Cambridge) and *God and Government in an "Age of Reason"* (1995); the third volume entitled *Despotism and Doubt* he left unfinished.

Nicholls also wrote frequently on contemporary theology, often candidly critical of the Church to which he belonged, but always amusingly and consistently showing a strong, untroubled faith. He recognised and tried to come to terms, at the highest level of scholarly debate, with the intellectual complexities of the language and interpretation of theology in its necessary relationship to the world of men and women — but his personal belief was not complex but essentially straightforward and orthodox. His substantial body of writings will undoubtedly one day come to be seen as one of the most remarkable scholarly achievements in today's Anglican Communion.

David Gwyn Nicholls was educated at Woking Grammar School, the

London School of Economics (where he won the Laski and the Gladstone prizes), and King's College, Cambridge, where he completed his PhD in 1962; he then went to Yale Divinity School and Chichester Theological College. In 1962 he was made deacon and in 1963 was ordained priest. From 1966 to 1973 he lectured in Trinidad and acquired there a legendary taste for cigars, as well as his lifelong fascination with the politics of the Caribbean.

There then followed five years when he was chaplain and Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford. Somewhat to his surprise, Oxford turned out to be his long-term home. The university, rather belatedly, recognised his ability with a DLit in 1991.

He was much influenced by Chesty Jones, his Principal at Chichester, who had launched Nicholls's clerical career by placing him in a curacy under Gordon Phillips, then chaplain to London University, at St George's, Bloomsbury. Chesty Jones, who remained a close friend, went on to be Principal of the dominant Anglo-Catholic institution in Oxford, Pusey House. Nicholls himself was an unrepentant Anglo-Catholic who, characteristically, complained of various aspects of the movement and its practitioners. It was entirely typical of

him that he took pride in opposing the opposition to women priests.

Nicholls always refused to live in an ivory tower. He was connected with many bodies, such as St Antony's College, Oxford, the *Political Quarterly*, the Centre for Caribbean Studies at Warwick, and the Latin American Bureau. With Valerie Pitt and Ken Leach, he came into the Christendom Group in the 1960s and, with Canon V. A. Demant and Maurice Reckitt, he helped to form the Christendom Trust, chairing it from 1992.

This last, and his association with the Jubilee Trust, reflected Nicholls's somewhat anarchic Christian socialism. He certainly disliked, and enjoyed ridiculing, the political Right, but was in no sense a regular member of the political Left. William Temple was one of his *hères noirs*; he approved of the benefits but hated the accompanying bureaucracy of the modern welfare state. He was a member of the Labour Party but ridiculed — and never felt at home in — its ponderous structure.

His tenderness towards anarchic views on secular matters made him an uneasy member of the Established Church. In the parish of Littlemore, however, he was a well organised and much-loved parish priest, his parishioners for the most part unaware of his international academic standing. He ran the church and the parish, and chaired the school governors, with the craftiness which came from a lifetime of suspicion of authority. His striking presence — grey head and beard and Latin American poncho arriving by motorcycle — was accompanied by great physical and intellectual charm. Nicholls quickly transmitted his restless curiosity, though he often thought too fast to have time to absorb the response.

In 1968 he married Gillian Sleight, who became a distinguished consultant paediatrician and whose emotional stamina was critical to the maintenance of Nicholls's own intellectual and psychological balance. Their household had an important third member — an abusive, brightly-feathered macaw from Trinidad, named Archdeacon Paley, after the 18th-century theologian. The Archdeacon was a frequent and rebarbative writer to the newspapers; he often elicited indignant replies from bruised academics and church people who did not spot the joke. William Paley was on occasion Nicholls's *nom de plume* when covering Haitian elections for *The Daily Telegraph*. In a curious coincidence, shortly after the Archdeacon died and had his death announced in the newspapers, Nicholls himself suffered a split artery in his neck. He died in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, during an operation to put it right.

He leaves his widow Gillian. There were no children of the marriage.

ROBERT CAMPBELL-PRESTON



Robert Campbell-Preston of Ardochattan, OBE, MC, Vice-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, 1976-90, died on June 14 aged 87. He was born on January 7, 1909.

A SOLDIER, sportsman and businessman, Robert Campbell-Preston of Ardochattan was a Highland laird of the old school who served his country — and his county — with dedication and distinction.

Robert Modan Thorne Campbell-Preston was born into a family that had been in possession of Ardochattan Priory, on the north shore of Loch Eive near Oban, more or less since the Reformation when much land previously owned by the Church had been expropriated and handed over to the nobility and gentry. Ardochattan was acquired by Alexander, the grandson of Campbell of Cawdor, in 1602.

Campbell-Preston was educated first at Eton, where he was master of baggies, and then at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated BA. He then entered business but also maintained his family's military traditions, being commissioned in 1927 as a lieutenant in the Scottish Horse, one of the Scotland's yeomanry regiments operating within the TA. It had been founded during the Boer War by the Marquess of Tullibardine (the title of the heir to the Duke of

Atholl), a connection which Campbell-Preston was to maintain.

When the Second World War broke out, the Scottish Horse formed the 79th and 80th Medium Regiments of the Royal Artillery. Though within the RA, they were allowed to keep their Atholl bonnets and soon acquired a fine reputation as among the best medium-range gunners in the Army.

Campbell-Preston saw action with the 80th in two of the most fiercely-fought theatres, Sicily and Italy. In 1943 he was awarded the Military Cross and in 1945 the US Silver Star. In 1945 his commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Murray, was killed in action in Italy and five years later Campbell-Preston married his widow, the Hon Angela Murray, third daughter of the 2nd Viscount Cowdray. Her son by her first marriage became the 10th Duke of Atholl (who died earlier this year), and a connection already established by service in the Atholl Yeomanry was thus consolidated.

After the war the yeomanry regiments were reduced in number and re-established as TA units, surviving a score of years before finally submitting to defence cuts. In 1945 Campbell-Preston was appointed lieutenant-colonel and commanding officer of the Scottish Horse and then, 1962-67, was honorary colonel of

the combined regiment formed by amalgamation with the Fife and Forfar Yeomanry.

From 1949 to 1974, he was joint managing director of Algin Industries. The back-breaking gathering of kelp had long been a staple of the Highland economy, and algin, one of its by-products, has many applications in the food, drugs and other industries. The company was eventually bought by Kelco.

He sat on the old Argyll County Council. He became a deputy lieutenant of the county in 1951 and served as Vice-Lieutenant for 14 years from 1976. He was a member of the Royal Company of Archers, the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland.

Campbell-Preston was a skilful stalker, a fine shot and an ardent fisherman. He took much pleasure in imparting his knowledge to the young, with whom he had a great empathy: he was known as "Uncle Bobby" to many with whom he had no connection by blood. To them, and sometimes old comrades down on their luck, he showed great kindness.

With his wife, who died in 1981, he shared a passion for gardening. He continued after her death to find much fulfilment in the garden at Ardochattan, often opened to the public in aid of charity.

He is survived by his daughter.

SIR HARRY CAMPION

Sir Harry Campion, CB, CBE, Director of the Central Statistical Office, 1941-67, died on May 24 aged 90. He was born on May 29, 1905.

AS THE first Director of the Central Statistical Office, Harry Campion was a principal architect of the modern system of statistics. With the outbreak of the Second World War, he was summoned from a readership in statistics at Manchester University to join Lord Stamp's group. Their job was to provide the War Cabinet with economic information for the war effort.

The group grew and split between the economists and the statisticians, and Campion was put in charge of the newly formed Central Statistical Office (CSO) in 1941. The function of the CSO was to co-ordinate the flood of often discordant information coming from the departments; to organise the collection of important missing data; and to present the results in consistent form.

Under the vigorous pressure of Maynard Keynes at the Treasury, a body of statistics covering the whole of the national economy had been called for, to facilitate the allocation of wartime resources. In 1941 the first official statistics of national income were issued.

With the end of the war, Campion devoted his efforts to preserving and amplifying the improved statistics and to extending the network to meet new needs. These included the commitment to high employment and the policy implications of the Beveridge report. Campion organised a detailed review by the departmental statistical sections of all branches of statistics. The harmonising of definitions required much laborious work. But Campion did at last achieve a set of agreed classifications (for instance, the Standard Industrial Classification) to be used by all.

Campion was brought up in Worsley in the heart of the Lancashire cotton industry. He was educated at



Farnworth Grammar School and at Manchester University, where he was first a lecturer, and then Reader in Statistics. He also took part in the newly formed economic research division which was one of the few university centres employing full-time researchers in economics.

Campion produced here his two pieces of original research: an estimate of national wealth and its division be-

tween private and public ownership, and another study of foreign trade costs. After the war, the widening range of official statistics and their increasing importance in policy led Campion to play a major part in establishing a stronger professional status for statisticians. This included a specialised grade within the Civil Service with its own career structure and salary scale; and the need for suitable academic qualification.

Campion's view of the function of the statistician, especially in public service, was somewhat Puritanical. That function was to present the measured or measurable facts in a coherent form with full attention to the small print. If there are unavoidable gaps in the data, it was for the user, if he wished, but not for the official statistician, to interpolate, extrapolate or, worst of all, to guess.

Campion recognised the great value of the electronic computer for manipulation of mass data, although he deplored the cooking of elabo-

rate mathematical concoctions with little care for the quality of the ingredients. He was in favour of the widest circulation of well-established official statistics. But he was cautious in promoting publicity, leaving that mainly to the professional information services. He did, however, take an active interest in the formal and clarity of the statistical publications (introducing, for example, the use of Gill sans-serif font for tabular printing).

Campion became a kind of "doyen" of the profession, advising Whitehall departments on appointments, promotions and transfers and, in the case of the latter, recruiting. He showed skill in fitting the right people into the right jobs.

He played an active part in the Royal Statistical Society, of which he became president, 1957-59. The CSO was also active in the international field, and Campion was selected, in 1946, as the first Director of the Statistical Office of the United Nations. He was appointed CBE in 1945, CB in 1949 and knighted in 1957. He retired at the age of 61 in 1967.

Despite Campion's unassuming manner, and often rather obscurely expressed pronouncements, he earned respect for senior civil servants throughout Whitehall.

Campion was unmarried and lived with his sister.

DAVID SCHINE

David Schine, former aide to Senator Joe McCarthy, died in a plane crash in California on June 19 aged 68. He was born on September 11, 1927.

DAVID SCHINE's remembered role in American history is not one that he would have chosen. Wealthy and fervently anti-communist, he had graduated from Harvard to become president of his father's chain of hotels when Roy Cohn, an old college friend, recruited him to become unpaid chief consultant to Senator Joe McCarthy's permanent sub-committee on investigations in 1953. Ironically, Schine was destined to be the unwitting final nail in McCarthy's coffin.

Together with Cohn, who served as chief counsel to the committee, Schine set about exposing alleged communist influence in the United Nations, the State Department and the Voice of America. Then McCarthy sent them to Europe where the pair were charged with investigating leftist subversion in a wide range of US agencies. To the world-wide European press, especially the British tabloids, the spectacle of two young

men chasing all over the Continent in search of reds under every diplomatic or agency bed seemed risible.

But they were no laughing matter to Americans serving overseas. In the paranoid atmosphere then prevailing several officials lost their jobs as a result of their allegations.

Then, in the autumn of 1953, Schine was drafted into the US Army as a common private. McCarthy, in an effort to make life easier for his young protégé, apparently tried to use his influence, unsuccessfully, to get Schine commissioned as an officer. The affair came to light, and McCarthy's enemies in the Senate seized the opportunity to hold public televised hearings into the allegation.

McCarthy, who at the time was alleging communist infiltration in the Army, was hoist with his own petard. Although the 36-day televised hearing was inconclusive, his conduct on the witness stand — particularly when under cross-examination by the Army counsel, Joseph N. Welch, was so egregious that it led to a vote of censure against him in the Senate on December 2, 1954. McCarthy's power was broken, and he died three years later.

Schine completed his military service in Alaska, never rising above the rank of corporal, and abandoned politics to return to managing his father's \$150 million business interests. These he expanded into the film industry, where his greatest success lay in being executive producer of *The French Connection* in 1971.

Later there was a less happy chapter. He and Cohn attempted to sue Universal Studios and NBC for \$40 million in 1977, alleging that they had been defamed by a television film about McCarthy entitled *Tailgunner Joe* (a reference to a claim that the Wisconsin senator always made for his war service that was totally untrue). But their case was thrown out by a New York appellate court.

In later years, David Schine served on the boards of a number of charities, mostly connected with the arts. He died when his single-engined aircraft crashed shortly after take-off from Burbank, California. His wife Hilary, Miss Universe of 1955, was also killed, as was his 35-year-old son Berndt, who was at the controls. He is survived by four other sons and one daughter.

Albareda, the Spanish Claretian, who is last in the Order of Deacons, sounded a bell and took the key with which he had been entrusted to open the door of the locked chapel. The secretary of the conclave entered, accompanied by the Prefect of Ceremonies and the two Masters of Ceremonies.

With them present as witnesses, Cardinal Tisserant, the bearded dean of the Sacred College, approached Cardinal Montini and asked him in a distinct voice whether he accepted the election. Whatever thoughts went through Cardinal Montini's mind at that awesome question he clearly gave his "accepto". From that moment he acquired all the rights and prerogatives of Supreme Pontiff. The purple canopies above all the cardinals' stalls were lowered, except for that of the newly elected Pope.

Affected by the Camerlengo, Cardinal Masella, placed the Fisherman's ring on his finger — a ring with no seal because the seal of the last Pope who had worn it was destroyed soon after his death. The new Pope then removed the ring for the new seal to be affixed.

The personality of Pope Paul VI will naturally be studied intently. The new Pope, at 65, is relatively young, and may be able to show his hand in a more leisurely manner than his predecessor...

LIBERAL CARDINAL ELECTED AS POPE

From Our Own Correspondent

ROME, June 21
A vast crowd acclaimed Pope Paul VI when the man who had entered the conclave as Cardinal Montini, Archbishop of Milan, made his appearance soon after midnight on the central balcony of St. Peter's. Once it had become clear that the smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel was unquestionably white, signifying an election, the square filled with people.

There was a wait of about an hour between the signal and the presentation of the Pope, as the expectant throng grew in size and excitement. The news of the election and the identity of the next Pontiff is traditionally brought by the cardinal who is the head of the Order of Deacons. Today this task fell to Cardinal Ottaviani who is also head of the Holy Office, who pronounced the Latin formula: "I announce to you a great joy: we have a new Pope."

Cardinal Ottaviani happens to be the arch-conservative in the Curia, and there was a touch of irony that it should have been for him to use the time-honoured expression in revealing, with the identity of the new head of

ON THIS DAY

June 22, 1963

Pope Paul VI succeeded John XXIII, whose reforming policy he continued. He reversed the Second Vatican Council and with the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (1968) emphasised Roman Catholic doctrine on birth control.

The Roman Church, that the Sacred College had chosen on the first ballot of only their second day in conclave one of the most progressive minded of the Italian cardinals.

There was a brief pause after the cheering which greeted his words; then a gold crucifix which he carried towards the window leading to the balcony and the slim figure of Pope Paul VI came into sight, raising his arms in greeting before uttering his first blessing to the city and the world...

The details of the voting remain secret, but the scene in the Sistine Chapel this morning can easily be reconstructed. Cardinal

PERSONAL COLUMN

<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>WBA is looking for Mark from London. Please reply to Box No. 9290.</p> <p>ANIMALS IN NEED</p> <p>Please help by giving your animals to the RSPCA. They will be rehomed and given a new life. Please contact the RSPCA at 01753 606911.</p>	<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>How near we are to the cure... depends on you.</p> <p>LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND</p> <p>43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH. Tel: 0171-480 0381. (Solicitors: Messrs. Glynne & Glynne)</p>	<p>TRUSTEE ACTS</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to 197 of the TRUSTEE ACT, 1925, that any person having a CLAIM against or in respect of the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified, after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives named, and the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.</p> <p>HARRY CRICK (deceased) of 20 The Ridgeway, Chesham, Bucks. died on 26th August 1990. Beneficiaries: to 25% each, Messrs. Glynne & Glynne, Solicitors, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH, before 22nd August 1996.</p> <p>WILLIAM (deceased) late of 12 Grosvenor Road, London N10 9JH, died on 11th January 1996. Beneficiaries: to 50% each, Messrs. Glynne & Glynne, Solicitors, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH, before 22nd August 1996.</p>	<p>TRUSTEE ACTS</p> <p>JORDAN, Robert Joseph, 47 Red Bank, London, died 20th August 1992; particulars to Messrs. Glynne & Glynne, Solicitors, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH, before 22nd August 1996.</p> <p>MACADISE, Harold Olive of 68 Kestons Road, Caversham, Reading died on 26th January 1994; particulars to Glynne & Glynne, Solicitors, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH, before 22nd August 1996.</p> <p>MANFRIED, Peter John late of 10 Wetherby Gardens, London SW18 3JH, died on 9th March 1996. Beneficiaries: to 50% each, Messrs. Glynne & Glynne, Solicitors, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH, before 22nd August 1996.</p> <p>MAY (deceased) late of 12 Grosvenor Road, London N10 9JH, died on 11th January 1996. Beneficiaries: to 50% each, Messrs. Glynne & Glynne, Solicitors, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH, before 22nd August 1996.</p>	<p>TRUSTEE ACTS</p> <p>Miss Cheryl May Mitchell of 30 Peach Avenue, Chesham, Bucks. died 19th August 1995. Beneficiaries: to 50% each, Messrs. Glynne & Glynne, Solicitors, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH, before 22nd August 1996.</p> <p>RAYMOND-WAY, Mary Helen late of 40 Imperial Road, 1st Floor, London NW8 7PT, died 26th August 1995. Beneficiaries: to 50% each, Messrs. Glynne & Glynne, Solicitors, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH, before 22nd August 1996.</p> <p>LEGAL NOTICES</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the Companies Act 1985, 1980, 1965, 1947, 1929, 1926, 1925, 1924, 1923, 1922, 1921, 1920, 1919, 1918, 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1909, 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905, 1904, 1903, 1902, 1901, 1900, 1899, 1898, 1897, 1896, 1895, 1894, 1893, 1892, 1891, 1890, 1889, 1888, 1887, 1886, 1885, 1884, 1883, 1882, 1881, 1880, 1879, 1878, 1877, 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872, 1871, 1870, 1869, 1868, 1867, 1866, 1865, 1864, 1863, 1862, 1861, 1860, 1859, 1858, 1857, 1856, 1855, 1854, 1853, 1852, 1851, 1850, 1849, 1848, 1847, 1846, 1845, 1844, 1843, 1842, 1841, 1840, 1839, 1838, 1837, 1836, 1835, 1834, 1833, 1832, 1831, 1830, 1829, 1828, 1827, 1826, 1825, 1824, 1823, 1822, 1821, 1820, 1819, 1818, 1817, 1816, 1815, 1814, 1813, 1812, 1811, 1810, 1809, 1808, 1807, 1806, 1805, 1804, 1803, 1802, 1801, 1800, 1799, 1798, 1797, 1796, 1795, 1794, 1793, 1792, 1791, 1790, 1789, 1788, 1787, 1786, 1785, 1784, 1783, 1782, 1781, 1780, 1779, 1778, 1777, 1776, 1775, 1774, 1773, 1772, 1771, 1770, 1769, 1768, 1767, 1766, 1765, 1764, 1763, 1762, 1761, 1760, 1759, 1758, 1757, 1756, 1755, 1754, 1753, 1752, 1751, 1750, 1749, 1748, 1747, 1746, 1745, 1744, 1743, 1742, 1741, 1740, 1739, 1738, 1737, 1736, 1735, 1734, 1733, 1732, 1731, 1730, 1729, 1728, 1727, 1726, 1725, 1724, 1723, 1722, 1721, 1720, 1719, 1718, 1717, 1716, 1715, 1714, 1713, 1712, 1711, 1710, 1709, 1708, 1707, 1706, 1705, 1704, 1703, 1702, 1701, 1700, 1699, 1698, 1697, 1696, 1695, 1694, 1693, 1692, 1691, 1690, 1689, 1688, 1687, 1686, 1685, 1684, 1683, 1682, 1681, 1680, 1679, 1678, 1677, 1676, 1675, 1674, 1673, 1672, 1671, 1670, 1669, 1668, 1667, 1666, 1665, 1664, 1663, 1662, 1661, 1660, 1659, 1658, 1657, 1656, 1655, 1654, 1653, 1652, 1651, 1650, 1649, 1648, 1647, 1646, 1645, 1644, 1643, 1642, 1641, 1640, 1639, 1638, 1637, 1636, 1635, 1634, 1633, 1632, 1631, 1630, 1629, 1628, 1627, 1626, 1625, 1624, 1623, 1622, 1621, 1620, 1619, 1618, 1617, 1616, 1615, 1614, 1613, 1612, 1611, 1610, 1609, 1608, 1607, 1606, 1605, 1604, 1603, 1602, 1601, 1600, 1599, 1598, 1597, 1596, 1595, 1594, 1593, 1592, 1591, 1590, 1589, 1588, 1587, 1586, 1585, 1584, 1583, 1582, 1581, 1580, 1579, 1578, 1577, 1576, 1575, 1574, 1573, 1572, 1571, 1570, 1569, 1568, 1567, 1566, 1565, 1564, 1563, 1562, 1561, 1560, 1559, 1558, 1557, 1556, 1555, 1554, 1553, 1552, 1551, 1550, 1549, 1548, 1547, 1546, 1545, 1544, 1543, 1542, 1541, 1540, 1539, 1538, 1537, 1536, 1535, 1534, 1533, 1532, 1531, 1530, 1529, 1528, 1527, 1526, 1525, 1524, 1523, 1522, 1521, 1520, 1519, 1518, 1517, 1516, 1515, 1514, 1513, 1512, 1511, 1510, 1509, 1508, 1507, 1506, 1505, 1504, 1503, 1502, 1501, 1500, 1499, 1498, 1497, 1496, 1495, 1494, 1493, 1492, 1491, 1490, 1489, 1488, 1487, 1486, 1485, 1484, 1483, 1482, 1481, 1480, 1479, 1478, 1477, 1476, 1475, 1474, 1473, 1472, 1471, 1470, 1469, 1468, 1467, 1466, 1465, 1464, 1463, 1462, 1461, 1460, 1459, 1458, 1457, 1456, 1455, 1454, 1453, 1452, 1451, 1450, 1449, 1448, 1447, 1446, 1445, 1444, 1443, 1442, 1441, 1440, 1439, 1438, 1437, 1436, 1435, 1434, 1433, 1432, 1431, 1430, 1429, 1428, 1427, 1426, 14</p>
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NEWS

Major claims beef war victory

John Major called off the beef war with the European Union after four weeks of conflict. But his claim that the campaign of obstruction the Government has waged against EU business had won him his objectives was met with derision from some Brussels officials. They launched an immediate attempt to rubbish last-minute concessions which had been hailed by ministers as soon as the deal was signed. Pages 1, 2

French farmers blockade Channel ports

Thousands of British holidaymakers were caught up in a wave of violent protests over BSE across France as mobs of rioting beef farmers blockaded two Channel ports. One ferry was prevented from picking up disabled children. Pages 1

Davis goes to ground

David Davis, the Minister for European Affairs, went to ground as the Government tried to play down reports that he had offered his resignation. Page 1

Longer health queues

Hospital waiting lists may have to get longer to make room for emergency cases, said Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. Page 2

Murder case drama

A man went on trial for the murder of a teenage girl, 18 years after his stepson was cleared. Page 3

Hunt for Noye

The owner of a house which is linked to the "road rage" killing of Stephen Cameron admitted that he knew Kenneth Noye, the Brink's-Mat robber. Page 5

Bomb factory raid

Police in Ireland have raided a large IRA bomb factory after a tip-off from a member of the public. Page 8

Internet catches the No 263 bus

A town was startled by world fame after finding itself on Internet *Knowhere Guide*. But the page for Eston, Teesside, advises visitors: "The only good thing is the No 263 bus, because it's a link to the outside world." David Walsh, a councillor said: "Whoever compiled this is an anorak nerd." Page 7

NATURE NOTES

Albin Crow
(Targetus scepticus)

An outcast, this bird is mercilessly attacked by its own species whilst sitting on fences. More Carry On than carrion.

OPINION

A human wrong: The denial of benefits to asylum-seekers is the wrong remedy. To persist would be to compound the injustice identified by the Court of Appeal. Page 25

Teacher training: export of artefacts; press reporting standards; Lord's prayer; Ulster's future. Page 25

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich will be Europe's most spectacular show. Page 24

John Grigg: Until the attempt to unite Ireland by force is finally abandoned, all dawns are bound to prove false, sooner or later. Page 24

OBITUARIES

The Rev David Nicholls, theologian; Robert Campbell-Preston, Vice-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute; Sir Harry Campbell, of the Central Statistical Office; David Schine, Joe McCarthy aide. Page 27

ARTS

Fame is all: "The rule in present-day popular culture is that, in any contest between celebrity and talent, the former wins every time," says Richard Morrison. Page 21

On the ball: Even the art galleries of Manchester have gone football crazy. Page 21

BUSINESS

Lloyd's: Nearly 90 per cent of names have had their bills cut as a result of the settlement offer increase. Page 29

SPORT

Football: The Euro 96 quarter-final could bring confirmation of a new, super England. Page 56

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

In bed with Elton: Life with a star, by his male lover. Page 10

Holocaust memories: A guilty childhood. Page 18

WEEKEND

Children's books: A good story is a winner. Page 1



Paul Heiney: Riding high with a menu for the mail coach. Page 3

Books: Reviews. Page 13

10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers

Smurfs: standby for the second invasion. Page 10

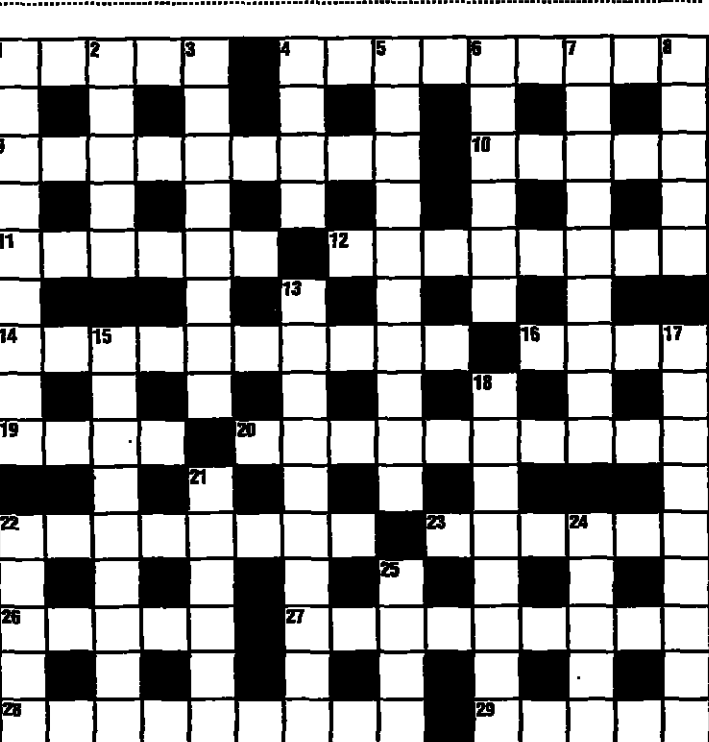
VISION

Friends again: a new series of the smash-hit American sitcom begins on Friday, Channel 4, 9.30pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,201

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



ACROSS

- The stage at which one approaches the house (5).
- What showered the couple — confetti? It may be round the cake (4-5).
- Tolerance could be a weapon to contain depression (9).
- Wounded and upset (3,2).
- You almost got added to Harrow's middle stream (6).
- Do my pals go off singing traditional songs? (8).
- None interrupting about impediment? Knot tied (5,5).
- Match promoter who takes a bow (4).
- Lovely woman has parking set aside for everyone (4).
- Have hock in after review of a playwright's work (10).
- Mostly horrible beer in a small town's local (3).
- One eligible for union? (6).
- Eccentric description of Brazil (5).
- Avoid next month, bar the end — i.e. play by August (4,5).
- Could be left with children, creating a distraction (4,5).
- Having good taste, married (after hesitation) within two years (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,195

PRINCIPAL MUSED
A N A B A T I
R E F E R R E D
I L D S I R I
S C A N T E S T A M I N E T
M A N E L A
R U E B A T T L E R O V A L
E L A E U I
S L A V E D R I V E R A S S
I M M I A R
S Y N T H E S I S L O C U M
T E A A I D A A
A U S T R I A N O P E N D A Y
N I S D N A I B
T E A C H D I S E N G A G E

Solution to Puzzle No 20,200

A S T H M A D O O R S T E P
T E N R A E A E
P R O R O G U E S P A R E R
I I E S A B I
S K I T T L E S T E N O R S
I A C I S O H
N G L A D N E S S E
O G G E K G T S H E D
V A M E S S M A T E S
E S A T T N A C
R E V E R E A L D E R M A N
S E T T F C P
T O G G L E I R I S H M A N
E A G E O R E D
P O S I T I O N M A D D E R

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: John Pinwood, Bridlington, E Yorks; Dr K A Winyard, Carlton, Wirral; Ian Richards, Birchgrove, Swansea; Corrie Walker, Leavenworth, Colchester; Tony McParlane, Stockmans Park, Belfast.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the code

Greater London	701
North London	702
South London	703
West London	704
East London	705
North Midlands	706
South Midlands	707
West Midlands	708
East Midlands	709
North East	710
South East	711
West Midlands	712
East Midlands	713
North East	714
South East	715
West Midlands	716
East Midlands	717
North East	718
South East	719
West Midlands	720
East Midlands	721
North East	722
South East	723
West Midlands	724
East Midlands	725
North East	726
South East	727

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
London & SE traffic, roadworks	732
London & SE traffic, roadworks	733
London & SE traffic, roadworks	734
London & SE traffic, roadworks	735
London & SE traffic, roadworks	736
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London & SE traffic, roadworks	747
London & SE traffic, roadworks	748
London & SE traffic, roadworks	749
London & SE traffic, roadworks	750

HOURS OF DARKNESS

First quarter June 24
London 9.22 pm to 4.44 am
Bristol 9.31 pm to 4.54 am
Edinburgh 10.03 pm to 4.27 am
Manchester 9.42 pm to 4.41 am
Perth 9.36 pm to 5.13 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 4.44 am
Sun sets: 9.22 pm
Moon rises: 12.53 am
Moon sets: 1.29 pm

HIGH TIDES

TODAY
Aberdeen 5.27
Aberdeen 5.37
Aberdeen 5.47
Aberdeen 5.57
Aberdeen 6.07
Aberdeen 6.17
Aberdeen 6.27
Aberdeen 6.37
Aberdeen 6.47
Aberdeen 6.57
Aberdeen 7.07
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JUNE 22 1996

Lloyd's sees updated offer as 'last chance' to settle **Bills cut for 90% of names with losses**

By SARAH BAGNALL

NEARLY 90 per cent of Lloyd's names have had their bills to the insurance market cut, as a result of the increase in the settlement offer from £2.8 billion to £3.1 billion.

Yesterday, Lloyd's of London dispatched letters to its 34,000 names, providing updated estimates of how much they will have to pay in final settlement of all their debts with the insurance market. The letters supercede the initial statements sent in March, before the settlement offer was increased. In total, Lloyd's is demanding £359 million in new money from names, over and above the assets already held to support names' underwriting.

The biggest beneficiaries of the increased offer are the 3,100-odd names who have seen their bills tumble by more than £100,000, while the bills sent to about 9,000 further names have fallen by more than £50,000. Furthermore, the number of names who are owed money by Lloyd's has swollen from about 6,000 to 12,000.

At the other end of the spectrum are an estimated 540 names whose bills have increased by more than £15,000, and 2,000 whose bills have risen by less than £15,000.

Lloyd's has lost more than £8 billion in the past five years and the settlement package is an attempt to consign its problems to the past. The package involves an out-of-court settlement with names, aimed at ending the mass of legal actions that have swamped the market, and the writing-off of more than £2 billion of names' debts.

In the letter, David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, wrote: "I deeply regret the

events that have made the reconstruction plan necessary. They must never be allowed to recur. I am reminded daily of the damage membership of Lloyd's has caused to thousands of names."

He admits there are shortcomings to the offer. "It is not perfect: we do not command unlimited resources and time is no longer on our side. But it offers better prospects than continued litigation."

As a result of the improved offer, 4,900 names will receive demands above £100,000. This is before taking into account their funds at Lloyd's, which are the assets held to support a name's underwriting and, often, are in the form of bank guarantees against the name's home. Under the offer, all names' debts are capped at £100,000 after their funds at Lloyd's have been exhausted.

Again, before taking into account funds at Lloyd's, a further 6,800 names have had debts capped at £25,000, while 4,100 will be sent bills of between £25,000 and £50,000; a further 3,600 names between £50,000 and £75,000; and 2,700 names between £75,000 and £100,000.

Mr Rowland said he was confident that the revised estimates were "a reliable guide to names' finality bills", which will be sent in late July. Names have until mid-August to accept the offer, with payment of any money owed due by September 30.

"We are entering the final weeks of the reconstruction plan and the time for talking and negotiating is over. Members must now prepare to make their decisions," he writes, adding: "If the offer fails, there is no second chance."



Giles Hilton, product director of Whittard of Chelsea, the tea company, which is to float on the AIM. Whittard will award the majority of its employees free shares. The giveaway, which is worth £200,000, will be shared between 270 of the 444 workers. *Tempus, page 32*

Southern Water supports bid

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND OLIVER AUGUST

SOUTHERN WATER announced last night that it is backing the £167 billion ScottishPower bid, after receiving assurances that the integration of the two utilities will not result in compulsory redundancies.

A spokesman said: "The ScottishPower offer of 105p in cash represents a premium of 64p over the value of the offer from Southern Electric, and of 74p over the value of the Southern Electric cash alternative."

The water company, which had originally recommended a £16 billion bid from its neighbour Southern Electric, met with ScottishPower yesterday. The agreement will enable ScottishPower to draft its formal documents as a recommended offer by the Tuesday deadline. ScottishPower wants Southern Water to further its multi-utility ambitions.

Southern Water's four top directors will receive a total of £15 million in share option gains after the takeover.

OFT calls in BA over plan for link

By JON ASHWORTH

A PLANNED global alliance between British Airways and American Airlines is tantamount to a merger and may require a full competition investigation, it was announced yesterday. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has summoned BA for talks, in what could be a prelude to a full monopolies inquiry.

The move was welcomed by Virgin Atlantic Airways, which claims the BA-American link-up would create a stranglehold on services between America and the UK. BA denies the link is a merger, and says "open skies" over Britain would create more choice for consumers.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, has started discussions with BA and will advise Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, on whether the deal should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

BA and American hope to combine code-sharing and frequent flyer programmes from April 1997, in a deal designed to thwart competition fears. There is no exchange of equity and no cross-shareholdings, but the carriers intend to share profits on the key transatlantic routes. Competitors claim BA-American will command up to 70 per cent of US-UK traffic, and 100 per cent on some routes.

The OFT may decide to take no further action, or press BA and American for certain undertakings. The alternative is a full MMC referral. BA said: "We are happy for the alliance to be investigated and will be co-operating fully with the OFT. The important issue is whether the alliance is anti-competitive."

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin, said: "We welcome the OFT's announcement, and would expect nothing less than a full MMC investigation." Mr Branson flies to Washington next week for talks with state officials.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET			
FT-SE 100	3722.3	(-5.2)	
Yield	4.09%		
FT-SE All share	1870.8	(-2.87)	
Nikkei	22530.65	(+93.35)	
Dow Jones	5674.94	(+15.51)	
S&P Composite	684.00	(+1.90)	
US RATE			
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)	
Long Bond	8.75%	(8.75%)	
Yield	7.10%	(7.11%)	
LONDON MONEY			
3-month Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)	
12-month bill	10.51%	(10.42%)	
STERLING			
New York	1.5403*	(1.5392)	
London	1.5402	(1.5416)	
S. Africa	1.5406	(1.5420)	
FF	7.9813	(7.9677)	
SP	1.9417	(1.9343)	
Yen	167.26	(168.85)	
E Index	85.9	(85.7)	
DOLLAR			
D. Index	1.5291*	(1.5247)	
FF	5.1815*	(5.1850)	
SP	1.2610*	(1.2560)	
Yen	108.10*	(108.18)	
E Index	97.2	(96.8)	
Tokyo close Yen	108.60		
NORTH SEA OIL			
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$17.75	(\$17.70)	
GOLD			
London close	\$383.85	(\$384.35)	

US postal service ends teamworking

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

AMERICA'S postal service is abandoning as inefficient the same teamworking system that Britain's Post Office wants to introduce, according to the UK's postal union, which proclaimed yesterday's mail strike a success.

The United States Postal Service is scrapping its teamworking system because it has led to falling productivity and increased industrial disputes. In Britain, the Post Office is trying to introduce teamworking because it says it will lead to greater efficiency and more co-operative working.

Documents seen by the UK's Communication Workers' Union make clear the US postal service's intention to abandon its system of teamworking, dubbed the Employee Involvement Process.

Writing to the CWU's US equivalent, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the USPS says that, despite efforts to improve the process, including revisions to the "work team approach", it regards it now as "broken".

Joseph Mahon, USPS labour relations vice-president, says: "In our view, the process has become an entrenched bureaucracy that is unresponsive to the mainstream goals of the postal service and unable to address the root causes of conflict in the workplace, or to foster empowerment of letter carriers."

Accordingly, the USPS says it "heretby withdraws" from the teamworking process.

Branson goes back to his musical roots

By JON ASHWORTH

RICHARD BRANSON is launching a new record label - four years after selling his recording and music interests to Thorn EMI in a landmark £500 million deal. The new venture, with the working title V2 Records, is expected to be launched in October, in a direct challenge to Sony, Polygram, and other market giants.

Confirming his plans for the first time, Mr Branson said he aimed to repeat the formula which brought success with such artists as Mike Oldfield, Boy George and Human League. The initial focus will be on unknown acts.

Virgin was prevented from launching a competing label for three years under the terms of the Thorn EMI sale. Ronnie Gurr, an A&R man who formerly worked for Virgin, has been lured back from Columbia Records. Jeremy Pearce resigned as managing director of Sony Music's licensed repertoire division in March for a job with Virgin. The company has said it was looking into the launch of a record label.

Mr Branson, 45, said the move would bring him into direct competition with Virgin Records, which he founded in 1973. He said: "We know the business very well. The business has consolidated into five major companies, and I believe there's room for a strong, international, independent new record company."

Working Week, page 31

FA seeks red card for Trebor players

By JASON NISSE

A BATTLE over the England football team's "three lions on the shirt" between Trebor Basset, the sweetmaker, and the Football Association is heading for the High Court.

The FA is angry that collectors' cards, given free with Trebor's Barratt Football Candy Sticks, feature eight England players in their England kit with the three lions featuring prominently.

Among the stars signed up by Trebor are Alan Shearer. Tuesday's two-goal

hero, Tony Adams, the captain, and Paul Gascoigne, the colourful midfielder. The FA threatened to sue Trebor. But the sweetmaker, owned by Cadbury Schweppes, moved first, attempting to restrain the FA. Now the FA is seeking an injunction to stop Trebor selling packs containing the cards.

Dan Wren, an FA spokesman, said the FA wanted to deal with the issue through discussion but was forced into legal action. The sweetmaker would not comment because of the litigation. The action goes to the heart of "ambush marketing",

where companies who are not official sponsors of a sporting event sell products which have some link to the event.

The FA was caught up in a row about sponsorship earlier this year when Coca Cola tried to stop players taking drinks from bottles marked Lucozade during the Coca Cola Cup Final. It eventually backed down. There has been much confusion caused by the England team's relationship with Burger King when McDonald's is the "official restaurant" of Euro 96. The FA's official confectionary sponsor is Snickers, made by Mars.

\$10 share exchange

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BRITAIN'S LEADING INVESTMENT HOUSE

The services are public but the capital must be private

The Private Finance Initiative was announced by Norman Lamont in the first November Budget in 1992. A year later the Private Finance Panel was convened under the chairmanship of Sir Alastair Morton. One of its responsibilities was to initiate projects whereby private finance could be introduced into the provision of public services.

Two-and-a-half years later more than 1,400 PFI projects have been identified and hundreds are at various stages of procurement; that part of the PFI has certainly more than met expectations.

Yet, there is a general perception, partly justified, that the results of the initiative in terms of signed deals has been less satisfactory: the building contractors, upon whom most of the tendering costs have so far fallen, express their frustrations publicly and forcefully.

Although the position is a great deal better than the percep-

tion, there have undoubtedly been disappointing delays in moving from identification of the projects and the publication of invitations to tender to the point at which the contracts are signed and ground-breaking takes place. Why is this, and what can be done to bring the flow of completed deals to a steady stream?

There is wide acceptance of the idea that the mobilisation of private capital is the only way in which public service is likely to be maintained, let alone enhanced. There is one philosophical hurdle which PFI has had to overcome and two pragmatic ones before the individual contracts could be negotiated.

The philosophical one is that the public sector does not need to own the assets by which its service is provided. The private sector has understood this point for some time in its own affairs: newspapers often own neither their offices, the presses on which they are printed or the vehicles in

which they are distributed. The essence of their service is the editorial control by which their readers recognise the product. Under the PFI, the same parallels can be seen.

In the prisons currently being built under PFI, the building and the services in it will be provided by the private sector but in accordance with prison legislation and quality controls exercised by the Prison Service through an on-site controller and approval of all staff members. But the Prison Service has specified the outputs required rather than the way these should be achieved. This procurement of the service rather than the asset itself is the change in emphasis that PFI has produced.

The two pragmatic hurdles are risk transfer and value-for-money. Transferring risk, as in the case of the Post Office Counters/Benefits Agency project just agreed, (where the private sector is bearing benefit fraud risks reported to be up to £150

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Alastair Ross Goobey

million a year), and taking a view of the savings in design, building and operation will more than make up for the capital cost disadvantage that the public sector has in its access to funds. The boundary of risk transfer, a concept much more advanced in PFI than in any equivalent public/private partnership deals elsewhere in the world, has created delay and conflict.

Each side has tried, in negotiation, to transfer as much risk to the other as possible. Both may have tried too hard: the private sector has often tried to structure the deals like a lease and leaseback, much as in the 1960s and 1970s property developers relished long lettings to the Property Services Agency on full repairing and insuring leases; the public sector has often tried to place risk which might more suitably be retained by it.

Another element of delay has been the fact that each negotiating team from public department, agency or trust and from the bidding consortia, has had to invent and then reinvent the wheel. It is only now that some templates are being created which should shorten the procurement period. These templates have not yet been established in some important areas of activity such as health.

The panel's role has changed

from initiation to delivery, and my predecessor, Sir Christopher Bland, reflected this in a new structure which only came into place at the beginning of this year. The panel members, eight unpaid non-executive (with no contracts), all have an interest in making the PFI work, but the repository of experience and the people who are daily trying to clear any remaining log-jams, is the panel executive, 24-strong only since January. They act as problem solvers and prompters of action. The panel itself must be told of the problems by participants, or the executive, as they arise, and we can try to intervene where helpful to seek solutions. I have already been in contact with contractors, ministers, opposition spokesmen and other agencies, such as the European Investment Bank, to find out what remains to be done to speed up the process.

For everyone in the country it is imperative that we are able to mobilise private capital in the

provision of public services. The contractors still have weak order books because neither the lottery-funded projects nor a strong enough flow of PFI contracts have been signed; this will constrain overall growth in the economy, whoever is in power, and we cannot afford too many further delays.

For the average citizen PFI, or something very similar, is the only way we are likely to be able to see a renewal of the assets with which public services will be delivered.

There is a good prospect that a flow of significant signed PFI deals will be forthcoming over the remaining months of this financial year, and I promise that it will not be for want of effort on the part of the panel or its executive if that prospect is not fulfilled to most people's satisfaction.

Alastair Ross Goobey is the chairman of the Private Finance Panel

LME acts to restore confidence

Risk managers responsible for copper contracts traded on the London Metal Exchange yesterday moved to restore City confidence in the wake of Sumitomo's \$1.8 billion losses. The LME took the unusual step of announcing that it held a record \$3.5 billion in cash, put up by its members against copper contracts currently being traded on the exchange.

Andrew Lamb, managing director of risk at the London Clearing House, which acts as a central counterparty for trades by members of London's four main commodities and futures and options markets, said that the money on deposit was a signal that metal traders on the LME could meet all their margin calls.

After a nervous start to trading on the London market yesterday, when copper for delivery in three months time fell to \$1.870, prices began to firm again towards the end of the day.

Deal agreed

Members of Clerical Medical, the mutual life insurance company, have voted overwhelmingly in favour of the takeover by Halifax Building Society. The proposals for the acquisition will now be submitted to the High Court for approval. The deal is expected to go through before the end of the year.

Rec share sale

Nearly all the Government's remaining shares in regional electricity companies were yesterday sold in a £22.5 million deal. The Treasury sold 3.6 million shares in East Midlands, London, Northern and Yorkshire to UBS, the investment house.

Epic disposal

Royal Insurance is to sell its 33.3 per cent stake in Epic—European Partners for Insurance Cooperation—to Aachener and Munchener, its German joint venture partner, for 300 million Dutch guilders (£114 million).

Jarvis rises

Investors in Jarvis Hotels yesterday enjoyed an instant profit as shares in the company rose 6p above its float price to close at 181p, valuing Jarvis at £300 million. *Tempus, page 32*

Blue Circle prepares to reorganise over costs

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BLUE CIRCLE, Britain's biggest cement group, is planning its second major restructuring in four years in a bid to cut costs and increase efficiency.

The £330 million six-year programme will involve the construction of a £180 million plant and the closure of two old plants, with the loss of up to 200 jobs.

The remaining £150 million is to be spent on increasing efficiency at its remaining core cement plants. This should result in cost savings of more than £50 million a year by 2002. The company's production capacity will remain the same at about 7.5 million tonnes a year.

Blue Circle's rationalisation follows a similar move at Rugby Group, a fellow cement producer, in March. Analysts welcomed the Blue Circle plan and its shares rose to close 4p up a 36p.

Blue Circle is studying a possible site for its new plant at Holbrough in north Kent. If found to be suitable, the company will apply for planning permission early next year. The 1.4 million tonnes a year plant is likely to open in 2001. It would replace the company's Northfleet works on the Thames and the Manton works near Ipswich.

When they close, as many as 200 staff could be made redundant. Blue Circle Industries, the parent company, said this year that 1,300 jobs would go in its struggling heating divi-

sion. More job cuts are expected within Blue Circle Cement's 2,000-strong workforce as a result of the restructuring, but Ian McKenzie, chief executive, said yesterday that he hoped that most would come through natural wastage and early retirement.

Two other small grey cement plants, at Weirdale, near Newcastle upon Tyne, and Plimstock, near Plymouth, which employ 300 between them, are likely to switch to production of specialised cements, Mr McKenzie said.

He emphasised that this programme would be unlike the last, in 1992-93: "The last restructuring was done abruptly and involved a large number of compulsory redundancies."

"This time it is a programme over several years and will depend heavily on the continued motivation of employees."

The investment in existing plants over six years of £150 million will be only £5 million a year more than the company's normal internal investment expenditure. The company will fund the programme out of its internal resources.

However, when Blue Circle receives planning permission for its new plant, it will make a "modest provision" for the costs of closing the older plants, Mr McKenzie said.

Tempus, page 32



Anthony Howarth, whose car dream led to a 15-month prison sentence yesterday

Africar inventor is jailed

By PAUL WILKINSON AND JON ASHWORTH

AN INVENTOR who dreamt of filling the third world with cheap cars made from wood was jailed for 15 months yesterday over the demise of his company, which failed in 1988, leaving £15 million in debts.

Anthony Howarth, 58, carried on taking money from customers when there was no prospect of the vehicle, known as Africar, being produced, Liverpool Crown Court was told. He was also disqualified

from being a company director for five years. He had admitted fraudulent trading and five specimen fraud offences. The case was one of the first taken on by the Serious Fraud Office.

Passing sentence, Judge David Marshall Evans said the public had to be protected against a business being run dishonestly, even by well-meaning people with visionary concepts. "This is a very sad case," the judge said. "You

are a man with qualities and abilities that I greatly admire, a man of considerable experience and achievements. You have done many things with your life, and with this project of yours have sacrificed everything that you possessed."

Howarth was once a renowned international photographer, as well as a film producer and director. He went to ground after the collapse, but surrendered to police in 1994.

Port says 1,000 jobs at risk

By CLARE STEWART

UP TO 1,000 jobs could be lost in Liverpool, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company said yesterday after the decision by Atlantic Container Lines to stop using the city's port.

ACL, which is one of the port's largest container customers, is to transfer its business to Thamesport on the Thames. Mersey Docks said the immediate consequence of ACL's departure would be 80 job losses. "There will be hundreds more jobs affected in the wider port community," said Eric Leatherbarrow, com-

munications director. ACL's decision comes after pressure both in Britain and America from a group of strikers protesting against their dismissal from Mersey Docks last September.

The company has now withdrawn its £8 million jobs and payments offer to the strikers. The dispute, which does not have the backing of the Transport and General Workers' Union, began when Mersey Docks refused to find jobs for 80 men, made redundant when their independent em-

ployer collapsed. Under the National Dock Labour Scheme, which was abolished in 1989, it would have been obliged to find employment for the workers. Of the 1,200-strong Mersey Docks workforce, 320 who refused to cross a picket line in support of the unemployed men subsequently lost their own jobs.

A final offer of 100 jobs was made, with a package of £25,000 per man, to the former employees two weeks ago.

Tempus, page 32

Mirror buys Irish newspaper group

By ALASTAIR MURRAY

THE Mirror Group yesterday moved to establish a foothold in Ireland, taking control of Century Newspapers in a deal believed to be worth about £15 million.

The Mirror has been keen to bolster its Irish editions and under the terms of the takeover will provide two new presses at Century's printing works. Century will gain access to Mirror Group news and sport as well as funds for further expansion.

Century Newspapers owns the News Letter, the oldest English-language newspaper in the world, dating from 1737, with a circulation of about 100,000.

Century made a profit of £0.5 million last year and has net assets of about £2.2 million. Sir Ray Tindle, the existing owner, will stay on as non-executive chairman.

The Mirror Group confirmed that there would be no change in the editorial stance of the paper, which is staunchly pro-unionist.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Healthy deals boost Electra dividend

A HEALTHY deal flow, particularly in the unlisted section of its portfolio, has helped Electra Investment Trust to lift its first-half dividend by 5.4 per cent to 3.9p a share and the value of its investments to £850 million compared with £764 million in the same period last year.

In the six months to March 31 Electra, which has 64 per cent invested in the UK with 32 per cent in the US, made £52 million from its unlisted portfolio, on realisations that generated cash proceeds of £81 million. Among the most successful Electra investments over the period were Keiton, Planet Hollywood, Ascot Holdings and Dolland & Aitchison.

Kalamazoo slips back

PROFITS at Kalamazoo Computer Group, the computer services and security printing company, eased to £5.9 million before tax, from £6.8 million, in the year to March 31, reflecting a difficult first half in the security print division. Earnings of 10.2p a share compared with 11.8p previously. The total dividend is increased to 4.15p a share from 3.75p, with a final of 3.05p. The shares fell 8p to 132p. Since the year end, the company has acquired the European automotive dealer systems division of Datapoint Inc for \$33 million.

Cohen's package soars

ANDREW COHEN, chairman of Betterware, the door-to-door housewares retailer, saw his total pay rise almost 84 per cent to £346,760 from £188,665 in the year to March 2, according to the annual report. His remuneration included a performance-related bonus of £84,700. His basic pay increased to £180,793 from £157,590 while the pension contribution rose to £81,267 from £31,075. Directors' total emoluments increased to £875,459 from £613,060. During the year, profits recovered to £9.29 million before tax, from £1 million.

Setback for Latham

JAMES LATHAM, the building materials group, suffered a 26 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £1.9 million from £1.4 million in the year to the March 31. Earnings fell to 21.5p a share from 27.4p, but the total dividend is lifted to 6.25p a share from 6p, with a 4p final. The shares were unchanged at 161p. The company blamed weak demand in the construction and housing markets. "Trading conditions had been difficult," although sales of timber and panel products were maintained, the company said.

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

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Germany DM	3.87	7
Hong Kong \$	12.56	11
Ireland P	1.62	0
Israel S	2.40	0
Japan Yen	161.50	20
Italy L	2.06	169
Netherlands Gld	2.76	24
Norway Kr	16.11	169
Norway Kr	10.69	9
Portugal Esc	204.50	234
Spain Ptas	166.50	234
Sweden Kr	8.46	191
Switzerland S	2.06	191
Turkey Lira	120.50	120
USA \$	1.66	1.05

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

BTR's share price is at its lowest level for years. Can Ian Strachan, the new chief executive, break out of the downward spiral...?

Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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Rare c grace

CORPORATE art requires a rare combination of talents. Many corporate art collections are in large part made up of traditional investment art, the finance director's side, but laying their own open to accusations of conservatism. It would be the other hand, take a collection and a great deal when planning a room or a venture into the late Helen Chadwick's late and dried blood. It takes a discerning eye to invest with in corporate art, particularly in the unknown, untested and to come up with a collection that is financially sound as artistically and intellectually viable.

Simon Evans, a partner in the 100-year-old international law firm — and an avid collector in his own right — has been successful in this regard. He has an integrated collection of 1960s art, a selection of 1970s art, a selection of 1980s art, a selection of 1990s art, a selection of 2000s art, a selection of 2010s art, a selection of 2020s art, a selection of 2030s art, a selection of 2040s art, a selection of 2050s art, a selection of 2060s art, a selection of 2070s art, a selection of 2080s art, a selection of 2090s art, a selection of 2100s art, a selection of 2110s art, a selection of 2120s art, a selection of 2130s art, a selection of 2140s art, a selection of 2150s art, a selection of 2160s art, a selection of 2170s art, a selection of 2180s art, a selection of 2190s art, a selection of 2200s art, a selection of 2210s art, a selection of 2220s art, a selection of 2230s art, a selection of 2240s art, a selection of 2250s art, a selection of 2260s art, a selection of 2270s art, a selection of 2280s art, a selection of 2290s art, a selection of 2300s art, a selection of 2310s art, a selection of 2320s art, a selection of 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A WORKING WEEK FOR: RICHARD BRANSON

Party mood conceals the serious business of success for Virgin

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

IT WAS nearly 1pm, and the photographers were growing restless. Where was Richard Branson?

Virgin staff tied knots in balloons and handed round champagne while the PRs glanced nervously at their watches. Virgin Atlantic was promoting its inaugural service to Washington DC — but where was the great man?

A topless London bus materialised. Branson gazing over the parapet like some windswept adventurer. He lurched down the steps with a softly spoken "hi", and was promptly trussed up in an Uncle Sam outfit. The photographers perched him on a railing by the Thames and told him to smile. Aspirant socialite Tania Bryer tried to muscle in. Branson kept smiling.

Behind the grin, Branson was having a dreadful day. His old enemy, British Airways, had unveiled plans for an alliance with American Airlines, taking the sheen off Virgin's own day of promotions. Before boarding the bus for his Beatles-style jaunt, he had been locked in interviews, giving warning of the implications of a BA-American tie-up. Commanding up to 70 per cent of the transatlantic air routes could only harm consumers.

"We hope and believe that the Office of Fair Trading will look at this and realise that it is a *de facto* merger, and will launch a full investigation," says Branson [his calls were answered yesterday]. "We feel that if they do launch an investigation, that we have every chance of stopping it."

"Obviously, our ideal scenario would be for the Government simply to say to British Airways, look, this is not on, we believe in competition, and you're quite strong enough already to fight your corner. You already dominate Heathrow, got most of the slots, you're very profitable. We're proud of the fact that we've overseen, unlike almost any other country, the development of a strong Virgin Atlantic, a strong British Midland, and just get on with it and stop coming up with unrealistic ideas."

It was far from a knee-jerk

Jon Ashworth finds a genial host in a competitive frame of mind

response. Branson, it emerges, caught wind of the imminent announcement, and flew his key advisers to Necker Island in the Caribbean to draft a response. Ironically, he flew British Airways, arriving back on the morning of the BA announcement.

I catch up with Branson in his wife's Saab, en route to his son's school sports day at a venue in north London. It is the only time he has been able to spare all week — and the pace does not let up. On Wednesday, he plays host to journalists on Virgin's inaugural flight to Washington, then embarks on a round of meetings and press conferences. He flies back on Thursday, ready to entertain friends to dinner. "I've got 24,000 people coming to a seven-day party at my house in the country. All the staff and their children, girlfriends..." The festivities

are spread over three weekends. Partying pretty much sums things up for Branson at present, with or without BA. He has just completed a round of "morale-

boosting" parties for staff of Eurostar, where Virgin has stepped in to handle sales and marketing.

His duties required him to turn up at a function in Kent — dressed as a rabbit. "For one-and-a-half very sweaty hours I was going around the table entertaining everybody as a rabbit, and must have lost the best part of a stone." It can only get worse. He is due at Disneyland Paris on July 1, to inaugurate the new direct Eurostar service.

After his son's sports day on Thursday, he drove to Oxford, where Raymond Blanc was opening Le Petit Blanc, a sister restaurant to Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, in which Virgin has a 50 per cent interest. Weekends might find him taking a quick break in Majorca.

Virgin has grown into a huge web of companies, employing 12,500 people, and

generating a pre-tax profit of £200 million on turnover of £2 billion a year. Since 1992, when Virgin Music was sold to Thorn EMI for £560 million, the company has expanded into soft drinks, spirits, hotels, cinemas, radio and television, trains and financial services. Virgin Atlantic continues to expand, with a new service to Johannesburg starting in October, and routes to Antigua, Barbados and St Lucia next spring. A new European airline, Virgin Express, starts flying from Brussels imminently.

"We have nearly doubled the size of the employees since we sold the record company with all the new ventures that we've started. I am not a believer in having money sitting in a bank account not being used. It's there to be invested. It's also nice to have no debt." Some wonder whether

Virgin could survive without Richard Branson. Sources at Lloyd's of London estimate the key-man insurance on his life at £34 million. Branson is confident

that the company is bigger than the man. "If the balloon ever went down, I think the Virgin name is now strong enough," he says. "I think my loss would not be too serious."

A fresh round-the-world ballooning attempt is planned for later in the year. Does he ever tire of the photo-calls, the stunts, the swashbuckling antics? "My general philosophy is, if you decide to do something, throw yourself into it, and do it well, and enjoy it as much as you can. I've never been, strange though it may seem, enormously comfortable with this 'making a fool of oneself' in order to get the message across, but I've grown to get on with it and get it done."

About half Branson's time is devoted to new ventures. His return to his record label roots is one example. Virgin Direct might branch into mortgages, and personal banking. Later

in the year, Virgin is opening a bridal shop near Trafalgar Square, offering everything from wedding dresses to wedding videos. Virgin has ten different teams assessing new projects. "We have targeted about ten industries which we think are fairly large, and fairly complacent, and maybe overcharge quite a lot, and where we think we can do it differently."

Surely there is a danger of diluting the Virgin brand? "Obviously, if we were to ever do something which the public couldn't identify with then, yes, we could dilute the brand," he says. "When we went into Virgin Cola, somebody was saying: 'Do you really want to see the Virgin name lying in a gutter on a cola can?'"

Branson, 46 next month, must sometimes wonder whether partying will get the better of him. Last weekend he was in Chichester, helping his sister to celebrate her birthday. Leaving the family, he boarded a helicopter, and flew to Norwich where Virgin Direct was hosting a bash. He drove back to Chichester on Sunday morning, then returned home to Holland Park, west London, in the evening. "I'd like an eight-hour night, but I don't normally get it," he laughs. "The kids get us up pretty early."

Branson tries to make time for his son Sam, 10, and daughter Holly, 13. "I actually try, in my diary, to put crosses through kids' holidays, which is much more than most fathers do, and be with them on holiday. I might be working the whole day, but at least I'm away with them on their holiday." The family goes to Necker "if it's not booked", and recently spent a week canoeing down the Zambesi.

We arrive at the school playing fields — just too late for the father's race — and the commotion starts all over again. A girl grabs Branson for a photo. Someone else tries to interest him in some planes from Iraq. An exhausted Peter O'Toole hops on the lawn, breathlessly tugging on socks and shoes.

Joan Branson appears, offering sandwiches and champagne. Sam arrives with some friends, and feigns indifference. "Dad, you made it," he says, rummaging in the picnic hamper. "I didn't think you'd turn up."



Uncle Sam for an hour's publicity, but Richard Branson can always find time for his son's sports day, even if he's late

HIDDEN ASSETS

Rare combination of talents graces walls of a law firm

Joanna Pitman finds an old practice endowed with modern British art

CORPORATE art collecting requires a rare combination of talents. Many companies that invest large sums in art are inclined towards safely traditional investments, keeping the finance director on-side, but laying themselves open to accusations of excess conservatism. It would, on the other hand, take a rare conviction and a great deal of tact when planning an office interior to venture into the realms of Damien Hirst or the late Helen Chadwick with their works of melted chocolate and dried blood.

It takes a discerning eye to invest wisely in contemporary artists, particularly in unknown, untested artists, and to come up with a clearly defined and focused collection that is financially as well as artistically and intellectually viable.

Stuart Evans, a partner of Simmons & Simmons — the 100-year-old international law firm — and an experienced and enlightened art collector in his own right, has succeeded, however, in assembling over the past three years an integrated collection of 1990s art by young British artists to fill the firm's new client reception areas and suite of conference rooms in its Wilson Street offices.

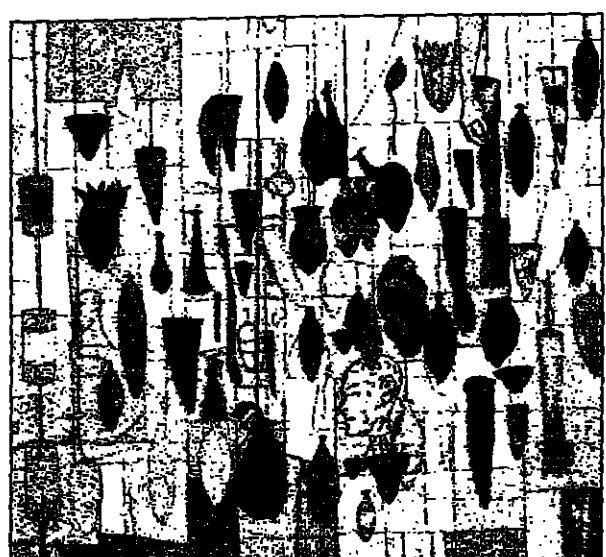
"I tried to buy works which would fit the environment of Simmons & Simmons and yet would challenge the somewhat reactionary tradition of English corporate collecting. A lot of recent work by young British artists has been grounded in photography and we decided to include works by artists using pho-

tography as their medium," he says.

Admittedly, Simmons & Simmons has a professional interest in the contemporary art world, having advised a number of young British artists, including Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin. The firm is also advising the Tate Gallery on the structuring and financing of the Banksie project for the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art.

Even so, Evans had a challenge on his hands obtaining a modicum of consensus from his colleagues, all of whom had differing ideas on the extent to which he could push the artistic boundaries.

"Good art is neither tame nor tameable. It has been fascinating to see which pictures, as they went up over a period of months, created the most stir." But Evans had a clear direction and focus in mind for this particular collection, and since its completion this year, he appears to have won over most of the dissenters. "As well as supporting the arts, our aim has been to bring to young artists a showcase beyond the galleries in which their work is usually seen, and to provide ourselves and our clients with the opportunity to engage with what I believe to be some of the most interesting elements in current British art."



The Well by David Austen is one of the works on display

The works collected represent the well-known as well as the unknown names of recent British art (some of the artists are currently representing Britain in exhibitions abroad and attracting international attention) and they range from quirky figurative to elegant abstraction, all focusing on aspects of daily reality represented often through unusual means and media. There is an enormous variety in styles, imagery, media and methods in the collection, from oil paint to plastic clothes tags, from panoramic landscape to refined abstraction to claustrophobic interiors. Naturally the styles and range of work of many of the young artists will change over time and some of those represented, including Fiona Rae and Michael Landy, have already made distinct progress from the time that their works for this collection were made.

Richard Shone, of The Burlington Magazine, who advised on part of the collection, is pleased with the overall result. "Good collections have a focus," he says. "It may be that all the work is by a single artist or comes from a particular period of art."

"Years from now, will we be congratulating the discerning eye behind this collection?" asks Shone. "Will the jewel be the Simon Patterson or the Nicholas May, or will we bemoan the fact that there weren't more works by Angus Fairhurst? It scarcely matters as the impression of the whole is the crucial consideration."

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The Official Receiver has acquired 3,000 ostriches



Years away from split pensions

Anne Ashworth on new divorce rules that may not become law until the end of the decade

A loud hurrah greeted the last-minute inclusion of pensions splitting in the Family Law Bill that enshrines the new divorce rules. The proposal, which should allow pensions to be divided at the time of the decree absolute, was hailed as a victory for the middle-aged housewife who loses the right to her husband's pension when her marriage ends.

But the euphoria swiftly dissipated as it became clear that the new rules will not become law until the end of the decade. Moreover, although the rules cover husbands as well as wives, they will not apply retrospectively, to the chagrin of those who have already divorced.

The Department of Social Security is preparing a Green Paper on pension splitting, likely to be published at the end of next month. After consultation, there will be a White Paper.

A change of government during the period would hand over the responsibility for drafting the law to the Labour Party, further slowing down the process. One matrimonial lawyer remarked this week that Labour might live to regret its insistence that pension splitting be included in the Bill, because of its complexity. Matrimonial lawyers

almost universally support pension splitting. They see it as the only way to compensate properly a woman who has not had the opportunity to build up her own retirement savings for the loss of her husband's pension rights. That does not mean however, that they underestimate the problems involved.

The DSS — which has always been opposed to pension splitting — emphasises the cost and complexity of the move. Although personal pensions can simply be put under a dividing company pension assets is another matter. The DSS maintains company schemes are already overwhelmed with the additional obligations of the Pensions Act 1995.

Bill Birmingham, of the National Association of Pension Funds, which represents the pension industry, believes that trustees and managers should be able to handle the responsibility of dividing pensions.

He said: "Schemes are not only coping with the Pensions Act, they are also dealing with requests from insurance companies calculating the compensation for those wrongly advised to leave company schemes. However, while pension splitting will be tough, it can be achieved, but only if it is brought in after the implemen-

tation of the Pensions Act next year."

Mr Birmingham explains that pension fund holdings are regularly valued, so that members can transfer. These figures could be used to split pensions. One reason for the Government's opposition to pension splitting has been the difficulties surrounding public sector schemes. Civil servants' pensions are funded on a pay-as-you-go basis. The schemes themselves have no assets to be apportioned. The NAPF, however, has suggested that the divorced spouse could be made a de facto member of the scheme and receive his, or her, portion when the civil servant retired.

The inclusion of pensions splitting in the Bill has overshadowed the introduction on July 1 of pensions earmarking. This was the Government's first concession to demands for a fairer deal. Under earmarking, or "deferred maintenance", a spouse becomes entitled to a share of the pension, not on divorce, but on the retirement of his or her spouse. Ian Pittaway, partner at Sacker & Partners, the specialist pension lawyer, explains that the new law, which applies to divorce petitions filed on or after July 1, 1996, gives courts the powers for the first time to award payments from pension funds. (see right).



There were doubtless discussions over Bob Geldof's pension expectations, as well as his estimated £10 million fortune, during his divorce from Paula Yates

Husbands seek separation in vain to safeguard riches

In advance of the implementation of the pension earmarking rules, matrimonial lawyers report a rush of wealthy husbands seeking to protect their pensions from their wives by divorcing before the new rules come in.

These men are obviously unaware that, although the earmarking provisions give the courts the powers for the first time to make payments from pensions, retirement savings are already taken into account in divorce settlements. The ending of the colourful marriage of Bob Geldof and Paula Yates doubtless contained discussion of his pension expectations, as well as the rest of his estimated £10 million fortune. Lawyers are also conscious

that it is their duty to assess the pension, or risk being accused of negligence. This responsibility was underlined in the *Griffiths v Dawson & Co* case. Special businesses have sprung up to help lawyers to tackle the convoluted topic of pensions. For example, Divorce Corporation, a division of Abbey National, based in Sheffield, offers a full review of pension rights that includes obtaining all the necessary documents. The organisation claims its services can reduce divorce costs by as much as £1,200.

Frances Hughes, head of family law at Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, the solicitor, says that much of her time is now spent resolving pension questions. She explains: "Pensions are less problematic when the rich divorce, as there are sufficient assets to allow the court to place the spouse in a position where she has enough to live off for the rest of her life. For example, there are creative ways in which

additional voluntary contribution (AVC) funds can be used now, in advance of pension splitting, to provide a dependant's pension for the ex-wife.

"For couples with fewer resources, pensions are more tricky. The earmarking rules will not deal satisfactorily with the problem. For example, they do not give the wife an automatic pension on the death of the husband, as her earmarking rights die with him. As the ex-wife is not the

widow, she does not qualify for the widow's pension.

"You can sometimes get round this by utilising part of the widow's pension, as a dependant's pension for the ex-wife. But if you allocate the pension in this way, then it has a serious effect on the husband's pension."

Ian Pittaway, a partner at Sacker & Partners, says that some pension funds have yet to realise the full impact that earmarking will have on their administrative systems. "They will see a significant increase in the number of their members, as ex-spouses become entitled to a pension. More records will have to be kept and payments made, at a time when there is pressure on costs."

Grass looks greener abroad but...

Tempted by a move to Greece, Spain or Italy? Plenty have been. After all, the sun shines constantly, the people are friendly, the food is good... and the pensions are the most generous in Europe. Another reason to buy that second home — and possibly make it your first.

According to a report published this weekend from Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, the actuaries and benefit consultant, the three countries top the European pensions league, paying up to 80 per cent of gross salary on retirement. Most of this comes from the State. Pensions in Britain rank at the bottom of the European generosity league, replacing just 63 per cent of gross final salary on average. The British figure includes a substantial proportion of benefits from

Sara McConnell assesses the pros and cons of the good life in Europe

occupational pensions as well as from the State. Italian employers pay the equivalent of an extra 50 per cent of salary towards your pension. To put this into perspective, British employers are the least generous in Europe, paying just 8 per cent of salary into your pension on average, although a large number of employers make voluntary contributions, pushing the typical level to 20 per cent.

But before you pack and head for the airport, it is worth reading the Sedgwick report carefully. The firm's 1996-97 *Guide to Employee Benefits and Labour Law in Europe*

also reveals that Italy and Spain have some of the highest unemployment rates, at 12.6 per cent and 22.8 per cent respectively in 1995. These are a decided dampener on your prospects for a healthy pension balance and make the UK's 8 per cent unemployment rate look quite healthy.

Unfortunately, the UK scores badly on what you could call "quality of life" benefits such as holidays and maternity pay. For the best deals on maternity pay, you should head north to Sweden, where mothers and fathers between them are allowed more than a year of paid leave

and reduced hours for the first eight years of the child's life. Sweden is also one of a number of countries that allow employees a statutory number of days paid holiday a year. The only three countries that have no statutory holidays are Britain, Italy and the US. To add insult to injury, Britain also has one of the lowest numbers of Bank Holidays a year of any country in Europe. It has just eight, compared with Spain's 14, Greece's 12, and Italy's ten.

Perhaps it would be worth packing the bags and heading south after all...

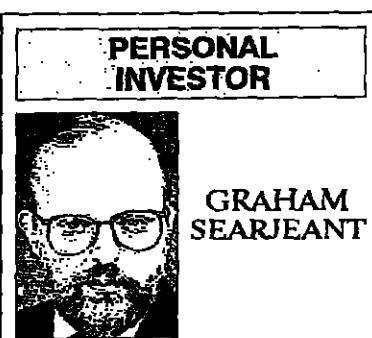
Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Keep AIM on target

Wednesday's first anniversary of the Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market was marked by upbeat celebrations that seemed unlikely when it started. What first appeared as an ugly duckling had quickly turned into a swan. This happy transformation was not, however, just a matter of nature taking its course.

The start was inauspicious because big name establishment institutions were sniffy. AIM looked a poor relation of the Unlisted Securities Market it was destined to replace, carrying less regulation and, therefore, less assurance.

Many remembered earlier illiquid and spivvy sub-markets for new or small companies. AIM was, indeed, developed in part because international harmonisation had brought too big an overlap between the main stock market listing and the USM, making the latter obsolete. If big investors were sniffy and many good USM stocks transferred to a full listing, AIM might also fail to attract ambitious companies keen to raise money and enhance their reputations.



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

billion, although most of that is locked up in the hands of core investors.

Growth of turnover in the market is even more telling. On the first day, there were just 28 bargains. Even after four months, total turnover had reached only a modest £95 million. Before the 12-month anniversary, however, it had comfortably topped £1 billion.

Institutional investors have climbed heavily on board, partly on their own account and partly through specialist trusts aimed at the private investor and tax benefits that stem from AIM companies being "unquoted". Given the higher risk associated with young, often single-product companies, trusts have great appeal. Since the start of 1996, there has even been an AIM share index. Not surprisingly, given this upsurge in interest, it leads the all-share index strongly.

AIM has become fashionable, along with the football clubs and media operations that feature in it and under-

line its lead role in business development. This institutional interest is vital to the market's role as a raiser of capital, but a mixed blessing. So far AIM has had a fair economic wind behind it and, therefore, remarkably few disasters. Unless you believe that Tony Blair really will end "boom and bust" cycles, it will not always be so and a mass exit by the City herd would make AIM shares even more volatile than they are by nature.

For the economy, it is good that fund managers take more interest in new and risky companies. But they must not take over AIM. The dead hand of bureaucratic convenience that comes with dominance would stifle the source of AIM's original success, which lay with private investors who had enough spare cash and spirit to take risks and back outsiders. The lesson of AIM is that private investors really matter. Indeed, the Stock Exchange should learn that lesson by creating a national market for smaller listed stocks that has a rulebook and culture to suit the needs of small investors rather than the largely uninterested institutions.

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Caroline Merrell and Jody Brett Kelly on the latest timeshare sales patter

How the dream of buying a place in the sun turns sour



HOLIDAY FINANCE

Trading standards officers are investigating the activities of Newby Finance, a mortgage company based in Leicester, after complaints about the refinancing deals offered on timeshare apartments.

Newby Finance is one trading name of another company based in Leicester, the Mortgage Advice Centre (MAC), which is already under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading.

The complaints against Newby, which received a consumer credit licence at the beginning of the year, centre on quotes given to tourists in Spanish holiday resorts for remortgaging their homes to buy timeshares.

Holidaymakers claim they were told that they could reduce their total outgoings by going through this process. Upon returning to Britain,

YOU may think that you are above being pressured into signing up to buy timeshare apartments, but as holidaymakers have become more aware of the ploys used by salesmen to encourage them to sign on the dotted line, so the methods employed by the touts have evolved along ever more sophisticated and complicated avenues. Now holidaymakers are not only subjected to hours of hard-sell patter, while at the mercy of the timeshare company reps. They are also tempted with the promise of reducing their mortgage payments back in Britain, offered the chance of employment, or led to believe that they can swap the timeshare they already own. Here *The Times* looks at the experiences of holidaymakers who bitterly regret the day they accepted an invitation for a discussion about how to guarantee a place in the sun.

and after a consultation with Newby Finance, they found that their costs would rise. When they tried to escape from the deal, they say the timeshare company threatened them with legal action.

Peter Hayes, a chef from Cheshire, is one such holidaymaker. He was offered a chance of remortgaging his home via Newby to buy a timeshare. When he returned to England, he found that the remortgage would cost a lot more than he claims he had been led to believe. Mr Hayes is now trying to get out of his timeshare agreement, and endeavouring to get his £850 deposit returned.

The inquiry into Newby comes after an investigation was started into MAC, which was the subject of a "minded to revoke" notice from the Office of Fair Trading two months ago. This action could end

with the company losing its credit licence. It is fighting the action, which is in the process of being dealt with by the Office of Fair Trading's adjudication procedure. The company was the subject of about 80 complaints, including one from Michael and Margaret Fisher, from Swindon, who were persuaded to sign up for a refinancing deal when in Minorca. They too claim that the quote provided in the resort for their remortgage was less than the quote actually offered back in the UK. When they tried to get out of the deal, they say they were threatened with legal action by the timeshare company.

Ian Smith, a spokesman for the MAC, said the allegations were unfounded. He said: "We are fighting the Office of Fair Trading's action." A Newby spokesman said he was unaware of any problems.



Janet Bingham and Paul Brisley were attracted by the idea of becoming timeshare agents

A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY

"How can you lose out? If you are not happy, your credit card company pays up"

Touts are lulling holidaymakers into a false sense of security by telling them their credit card company is jointly liable if anything goes wrong with the purchase.

It is true that under section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act your card company should pay up if the goods are wrongly described or non-existent. This also applies to overseas transactions because of a voluntary agreement by the banks.

The rule has been in place since May 15 last year, but is not retroactive.

But the rule is that the touts take you to the bank and ask you to use your credit card to make a cash advance for the timeshare deposit. What they do not tell you is that your credit card company will not bail you out for cash advances. And to add to the complica-

tions, the Time Share Council says, some banks are dragging their heels about paying up for their transactions.

Gerald Martin, 62, of Carshalton, Surrey, has asked for his money back from TSB and Barclays. The former engineering assistant used redundancy money to buy into a property in Miraflores last year without realising it was a timeshare.

The total cost was £25,000 and they told me it was freehold and I could easily sell it on," he says.

He bought the property as his partner of 17 years, Margaret Buck, had suffered a heart attack and needed a restful place to recover.

But after paying the £5,000 deposit using two credit cards, Mr Martin realised that he was, in fact, buying a timeshare for eight weeks that was worth about £5,000. He is now trying to recover that deposit with the help of the Time Share Council.

An offer you wish you had refused

"If you buy our timeshare, we will give you a new life and a new job"

Janet Bingham, an unemployed residential home carer, and her partner, Paul Brisley, a painter and decorator, were looking forward to starting a new life in Majorca.

While on holiday there this month they signed up for a one-week timeshare in the resort of Garden Lago Puerto D'Alcudia.

It cost £6,000 but they were attracted by explanations about how they could become timeshare agents, living free for the first month in one of the resorts owned by Atlas Balear.

To demonstrate how much the couple could make from working for the company, a salesman showed his payslip to Janet, 29, and Paul, 31. They say they got the impression they could earn as much as £2,000 a week.

Ms Bingham says: "It really seemed like a great way to get ahead and start a new life and they seemed very keen to take us on as salespeople because we were a couple."

She paid a deposit of £600 on her National & Provincial Visa card and they agreed to take out a loan with the company for the remaining £5,400, which they undertook to pay back at the rate of £125 a month.

They have yet to sign for the loan, but they understand they are legally obliged to start making the payments in nine months' time.

The next morning they had grave reservations about the deal but were told they could not back out.

And when the couple got back to their flat in Folkestone, Kent, they looked at their agents pack which says that they can sell one week's accommodation at the resort to her family and friends for £150 and they can keep the money. But as Ms Bingham points out: "Anyone who buys this one week's accommodation off me still has to pay for their flights and car hire because the resort is an hour-and-a-half away from the airport. So this is hardly a bargain. They also have to listen to presentations from the timeshare people."

They say they are being urged by European Collectors, the resort's collection agency, to sign for a loan. They have been told by this agency that only good agents actually eventually get a job in the resort. "The whole thing is a mess," says Ms Bingham. "It really is quite a worrying situation."

A spokesman for Garden Lago, the timeshare company, who described himself as an in-house manager, said: "You're poking your nose where it's not wanted. I don't want to speak to you." He then put down the telephone.

Soft sell, hard finish

"We have many Russians who want to buy your timeshare"

This very successful sell-buy marketing technique is expected to be rife this summer.

Carole Hibberd, 52, a music teacher, and her husband, David, 47, a builder, looked forward to a lifetime of holidays beneath bright sun and blue skies when they bought a timeshare in Tenerife three years ago. But all was not so sunny when the Croydon couple started having problems swapping their week for one in the school holidays to suit Andrew, their son of 14.

While on holiday a year ago, they were approached by a timeshare salesman in the street. But instead of starting up a hard-sell patter, he seemed very keen to buy their timeshare. It seemed their problems would be solved.

"He told us they had Russian clients who were very wealthy and wanted to get

NEWFORCED

their money out of the country. Apparently these Russian clients had asked for our exact timeshare week and would pay £7,500," Mrs Hibberd says.

Initially, they were surprised at the generosity of the offer as the timeshare had only cost them £4,000. In return, the Hibberds had to buy a new timeshare in Tenerife costing £8,500. But that suited them as it was a week in the school holidays and the apartment was more luxurious.

The Hibberds thought the company was contractually obliged to sell their first timeshare within nine months. But after reading the documentation they realised there was no obligation, although it said it was "unlikely" the timeshare would not sell.

More than a year down the line, their first timeshare has not been sold and the couple

have fully paid off the second timeshare.

The contract says that if the timeshare company does not sell the first timeshare within nine months, the Hibberds can request that the second timeshare be sold. They made this request in January, but there is no time limit on how long the company can take to sell it. To make matters worse, the second timeshare has still not been completed, nor has the airport which allows access to it.

Mrs Hibberd says: "We went back to Tenerife recently and we saw a lot of people being approached by touts, trying to sell them a timeshare. I just wanted to tell them to run away right then and there."

Diana Hanks, customer services manager for the Time Share Council, the self-regulatory body, says buyers should ensure the timeshare company is a member of their organisation.



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

DSS sings the same old tune

The song said that "breaking up was so very hard to do" and the Department of Social Security is determined to prove it beyond doubt. You can almost hear the strains of the Neil Sedaka hit sounding out from the department's Whitehall headquarters.

Since the beginning of the campaign for pensions splitting at divorce, the DSS has been against the measure. This opposition is curious in light of the widespread support for splitting, but not inexplicable. Insurance companies, peers and pension funds may believe that a spouse who has dedicated life to home and family has a right to a share of a substantial household asset. But the DSS can see only the potential cost to public sector pension schemes.

As support has grown for splitting, the DSS found one pretext after another to fend off the division of pensions at divorce. One of these arguments centres on lost tax revenue. An ex-wife can set her personal tax allowance against her pension, so paying less tax. The woman who remains married cannot use her allowance in this way, as the pension is taxed as her husband's income. This is, of course, true. However, it overlooks the various tax-saving opportunities open to couples. For example, a husband can transfer investments into his wife's name, making it possible for her to exploit her allowance.

The latest counter-attack against splitting is the extra expenditure and work involved for the pension industry. But earmarking, or the division of a pension at retirement, the Government's first and highly imperfect solution to the pension question, will be infinitely more costly in both money and scheme-manager time than a clean break. Imagine the disputes that will result when a pension is paid out to a spouse whom your subsequently remarried employee divorced a decade ago.

Earmarking becomes law on July 1, as the Green Paper on splitting nears completion. Lawyers specialising in divorce and pensions believe that the legislation should be as straightforward as possible. For example, there should be one statutory basis for calculating pension rights, rather than a number of different methods. However, few suspect that clarity and simplicity will be a prime consideration of the DSS. Delay seems set to be the keynote. Meanwhile, pity the poor pension scheme manager obliged to act as mediator between members and their former spouses.

Compensation at last

THE Cheltenham & Gloucester has, at last, closed a less than illustrious chapter in its 146-year-old history.

This week it paid out £7.5 million in compensation to 319 pensioners who had been sold unsuitable home income plans, backed by C&G loans. These high-risk plans were arranged by Aylesbury Associates, a now disgraced firm of financial advisers. C&G also paid an ex-gratia £7 million to the Investors' Compensation Scheme, which had already distributed some cash to these elderly victims.

That the C&G still denies liability is likely to be of little concern to those who have finally received their due. Vulnerable and unsophisticated, they were advised to borrow against the value of their homes to invest in bonds. When these bonds slumped in value, even as the interest accumulated on their loans, they were left in fear of repossession.

The C&G should now serve as an example to the prominent societies, including National Counties and West Bromwich, that are also being chased by the ICS for money paid out to home income clients. Even if they are unmoved by the plight of pensioners, they should remember that there are public relations rewards in being magnanimous.



Carole Hibberd was lured by hope of selling a timeshare

Sarah Jones

Pamela Bennett

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Sarah Jones on the National Savings Investment Account's 30th anniversary



Pamela Benstead with her sons, Richard, 16, and James, 12, who were treated differently over the 30-day notice rule

Lots of candles are being blown out on the birthday cake at National Savings this week. The Investment Account is 30 years old. These days more than 4.5 million people have accounts with a total of £9.3 billion invested.

Introduced in the 1965 Budget by James Callaghan when he was Chancellor and launched the next June, the Investment Account required a minimum investment of £1, allowed a maximum £5,000 deposit, and paid 5.5 per cent gross.

But there have been several changes to the account recently. The minimum deposit is now £20 and the maximum £100,000. Rates of interest are now tiered. The current rates were cut in February this year and, in line with all savings rates, are little better than 30 years ago: 5 per cent for balances of £1-£499, 5.5 per cent for £500-£24,999 and 5.75 per cent for £25,000-£100,000.

Birthday time blues

The latest change is on access. Previously, there was a 30-day notice rule. Now investors can withdraw their money immediately — although they are penalised the equivalent of 30 days' interest. National Savings billed this in April as giving "more flexibility" to savers and "good business practice". However, Pamela Benstead, a reader of *The Times*, views it differently.

Her sons, Richard and James, were given money by their grandparents, which they decided to put immediately into their Investment Accounts and then withdraw half of it to buy Children's Bonus

Bonds. They were treated completely differently when it came to the 30-day notice rule.

"Richard got his investment account book back with a letter to say his application would be processed in a month's time. In fact, in that month he became too old for bonus bonds so National Savings suggested capital bonds and did not charge him for withdrawal."

"James got his application back saying the money from his grandparents had to be in the account for 30 days before it could be drawn on and to reapply in a month. He did that, but because it was con-

sidered an instant withdrawal he was charged £4.51. An added irritation was that the charge was taken out of his account 12 days before he actually got the bonus bonds.

"It seems to me that there is a difference between losing interest and actually having to pay National Savings for instant withdrawals."

After intervention by *The Times*, National Savings said that a mistake was made in James's case and he should not have been charged.

It added: "The service he got falls far short of the service we aim to provide. Mistakes do occasionally happen and we have to put our hands up. We will be contacting Mrs Benstead to apologise. However, the new withdrawal option has been warmly welcomed by investors. The level of withdrawals has not changed, but people can now get at their money quickly if they need to."

Bonds that encourage investor loyalty

Many National Savings investors are despairing of the rates they are currently getting on their accounts. But the stark reality is that National Savings rates are not nearly as bad as the rates from equivalent savings at banks and building societies. National Savings also scores on giving comparatively reasonable rates for accounts that have low minimum balances and short notice periods and allow monthly interest, criteria normally penalised at banks and building societies.

One of the most popular accounts is the Pensioners Bond, especially since the age qualification was reduced to 60 in the last

Budget. The bond pays 7 per cent gross fixed for a five-year term. There are Tassas that pay a fixed 7 per cent or more free of tax but require a minimum £3,000, whereas the Pensioners Bond starts at £500. The other attraction of the bond for pensioners is monthly interest payments.

Similarly, Income Bonds pay monthly interest. It is hard to find a building society equivalent — a 90-day account — that gives 6.25 per cent gross on balances of £2,000 to £25,000. Halifax's Solid Gold pays only 3.01-4.51 per cent gross for monthly interest. Northern Rock's Great North Postal account does pay 6.25 per cent and only has 30 days' notice but

interest is annual and the minimum balance is £5,000.

The First Option Bond is a one-year term with a fixed rate of 6.25 per cent gross for £1,000-£20,000 and 6.50 per cent for £25,000-£250,000. Unlike other National Savings the interest is paid net. Bristol & West has a one-year bond paying 6.15 per cent on balances over £5,000. Woolwich gives 6.80 per cent on £1,000 and 7.25 per cent on £25,000 or more but the term is for two years.

National Savings, unlike building societies, has not cut its savings rates with every base rate fall. Its rates are linked more to gilt prices.

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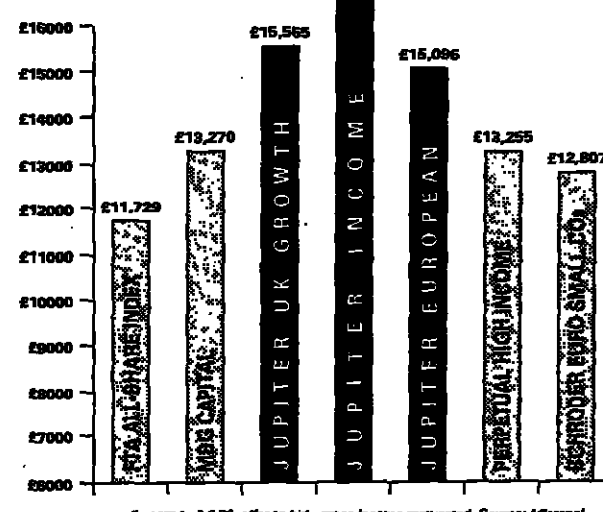
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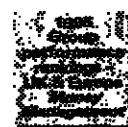
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The M&G PEP

Home truths for buyers and sellers

Boom time beckons — or does it?

Marianne Curphey examines the outlook for the housing market

Beware housing market hysteria. Over the past 48 hours, estate agents have been doing their best to fashion a full-scale revival of the housing market out of a few encouraging figures from mortgage lenders.

They predict the beginning of a housing boom, the eradication of negative equity, and a rise in house prices. However, many householders who have been trying to sell their house or flat for months, or even years, still have little cause for celebration.

Some have negative equity of up to £20,000, others bought homes in run-down areas because it was all they could afford and are now finding them impossible to sell. A significant proportion bought 1980s warehouse developments and studio flats that are no longer fashionable with first-time buyers.

Figures from the Building Societies Association show that societies approved mortgages worth £4.2 billion in May, the highest for any month since the end of the housing boom in September 1989.

However, Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, urges caution. "House-hunters should not get carried away. House prices are currently only 4.2 per cent up on last year, and while the average house price might rise by that amount, property in some areas could still be falling.

There are large differences between the highest and lowest prices being asked for homes in the same region, and there is not the same demand for property that there was in 1988."

He cites London as a good example of two-tier pricing. "People with homes in Islington, Battersea, Notting Hill and Hampstead are starting to see prices pick up, while those who bought in Hackney, hoping it would become gentrified, have been disappointed."

For now, he is sticking with his forecast of a total price rise of 5 per cent for the year, although he says he might be tempted to revise it upwards if the summer proves to be as good as some estate agents are predicting.

He says: "There is a certain amount of the 'feel-good' factor returning to the market, but it is too early to say whether it will stick. There has been a rise in the average house price every month since the beginning of the year, but there is still currently a shortage of suitable property."

Economists point to the beneficial effects of the Chancellor's recent cut in interest

rates from 6 to 5.75 per cent on June 6. Ian Shepherdson, economist at HSBC, is predicting a 5 per cent increase in house prices over the 12 months to December this year, but adds that it is "entirely possible" that the figure could rise to 7 per cent or more.

Ciaran Barr, economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, is upbeat about the housing market, but counsels caution over talk of a housing "boom".

He says: "The term has been used very loosely. The combination of factors which created the rapid housing market in the 1980s is not present this time. We have not had deep tax cuts and the demand for home ownership has plateaued. Negative equity may have halved since the beginning of the 1990s, but it is still a major issue for many homeowners."

Mr Barr is forecasting a 6 to 8 per cent rise in house prices this year and a further 5 to 6 per cent increase for 1997. He expects house sales to increase by up to 11 per cent and rise a further 11 per cent next year.

However, he tempers that optimism by emphasising that housing turnover is starting from a very low base. He says: "This year will not even reach the levels of the mid-1980s, never mind the real boom years."



In a year Dale Scarboro has come close to buying four houses, spending hundreds of pounds on each survey and lawyer

Gazumping is making a comeback

While estate agents wax lyrical about the fantastic opportunities available in the current "buyers' market", one Times reader and his wife spent a year and more than £1,500 searching fruitlessly for a new home.

During the 12 months the couple came close to buying four houses, paid for a series of surveyors' reports and legal fees, but found to their horror that the 1980s practice of gazumping had made an unwelcome return.

Dale Scarboro's ordeal began when he and his wife Carol sold their 1950s semi-detached house in Wells, Somerset, to move to Gloucestershire.

The first house they found was in Prestbury, within commuting distance of St Edwards School in Cheltenham where Mr Scarboro had a new job as a history

teacher. They had exchanged contracts and had agreed an early completion date when, on a second viewing of the home, they discovered the walls were so thin that they could hear the neighbours. Mr Scarboro withdrew his offer.

Next he tried to buy a former council house in Woodmancote but became a victim of the 1980s scourge of "gazumping". He saw it on a Wednesday while the agents were still preparing details to distribute on their mailing lists, but by Thursday afternoon three other couples had offered the full asking price. To Mr Scarboro's distress, the agent held an auction over the telephone and the price rose within hours from £83,000 to £87,000. His offer was rejected.

Mr Scarboro withdrew his offer on a third house when he discovered proposals for a bypass close by.

Estate agents told him tersely that he would have been better off if he had more money to spend. His budget, between £70,000 and £110,000, lifted him out of the first-time buyers' market of small terraced houses on busy roads, but was not enough to buy him a detached commuter home designed for middle managers.

Undeterred, he put in an offer on a fourth house, despite evidence from the surveyor's report that it required at least £1,000 restoration work. To his dismay, the house was withdrawn from the market on the day he was originally due to move into it, because a selling chain collapsed.

He said: "I have spent hundreds of pounds on every survey, have shelled out for lawyers' fees and tested the hospitality of my family and friends."

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مكتبة القرآن

Caroline Merrell on the new understanding among lenders of the economic realities

Life expectations: many television journalists, like those portrayed in *Drop the Dead Donkey*, are now working on short-term contracts

The number of people with an itinerant lifestyle has increased rapidly over the past few years. Short-term contracts, spells working abroad and the ability to follow a career around the country are the hallmarks of modern life.

Those in the business of lending money for house purchase are always quick to spot a marketing opportunity, which has led to the proliferation of a number of so-called "lifestyle loans" — mortgages which are specifically designed to fit in with new ways of living.

EXPAT WORKERS

More and more people will spend a period of their life working abroad. Many of these expat workers also wish to keep a home in this country for when they return. While borrowing money to fund such a purchase can prove to be difficult, some societies will help. Alliance & Leicester, for instance, will allow expats access to its full range of mortgage products. It will lend up to 75 per cent of the property's value. The applicant must have a valid UK passport, and a right of residence in the UK. The loan can be arranged up to two years before the applicant's planned return to the UK.

The society offers a special helpline for expats: 0116 272 2899.

Halifax has a specific division to handle the expat market — Halifax Mortgage Services. The Halifax's usual range of products is available. It will lend up to 80 per cent of the value of the

Loans taking lifestyles into account

property, provided it is ultimately going to be the primary residence. It will also lend only to those who are employees of large multinational companies. The Halifax allows owners to rent out their property until they return. It will not load the interest rate.

Other lenders are not so willing to lend in this market. The Abbey National and the Woolwich, for example, will lend only to those who are abroad hoping to buy and rent out a property in this country if they are prepared to pay a higher rate. They both consider such loans commercial lending.

SHORT-TERM CONTRACTS

Contracts of one year, six months and even three months are becoming more typical. Many newspaper and TV journalists, IT workers, teachers and even those who work for local government are now working regularly on

short-term contracts. Previously, lenders would have found it difficult to offer loans to these types of people because they would have felt that they represented a bad lending risk.

Building societies are now more willing to offer finance. The Alliance & Leicester, for instance, this month announced that it intends to make all its mortgage products available to those on short-term contracts in the health and education sectors. Applicants need only to have been employed for three years in the same industry and have a contract of employment for a minimum of six months. Other societies and banks are also adopting a more flexible attitude. Abbey National, for instance, said: "We will lend to people on short-term contracts. For those on one-year contracts, we would expect some kind of assurance that the contract would be renewed at the end of the year." He added: "We are getting

more flexible in our attitude, and will consider those on shorter-term three and six-month contracts. It all depends on the contract and for whom the potential borrower is working." The bank would try not to turn people away.

The Woolwich will also lend to those on short-term contracts, provided certain terms and conditions are met. The borrower has to be a professional, in the public service, in an executive position, or the employer has to confirm in writing that the contract will be renewed.

The Bank of Scotland has a specific loan aimed at short-term contract workers, while the Halifax will try to consider each application on its merits.

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT MORTGAGES

Many mortgage brokers and lenders are now beginning to offer loans which will allow flexible payments. These loans are aimed at those who may suffer periods of unemployment, or at couples whose income drops because they have started a family. Chase de Vere, the mortgage broker, for instance, is offering the Adaptable Lifestyle Mortgage. This loan allows borrowers to overpay, which means they can underpay when their finances are not in such fine shape.

John Charcol also offers a flexible mortgage scheme which allows people to buy a second property without having to sell their existing one.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Pensions extra for investment trusts

Investment trust pensions are catching on. The latest comes from Edinburgh Fund Managers. Just two weeks after the launch it says the amount of interest from the public has been phenomenal. Edinburgh has added significant "bells and whistles" to its pension fund, but the risks remain. We answer your questions about this little-known product.

Q What is an investment trust pension?

A As it sounds really. Providers have added a pensions wrapper to give the usual pension tax advantages to their existing investment trusts. Investment trusts are collective funds that spread investors' money across a broad range of shares.

Q How do they work?

A Contributions are used to buy shares in investment trusts, whose value may go down as well as up. The value of the pension is determined by the invest-

ment trust returns achieved, after costs, on the contributions made. Investors are given a choice of funds to go for. They can range from high-risk emerging market trusts to lower-risk UK-based investments.

Q Are they riskier than conventional pensions?

A Yes. The traditional with-profits or unit-linked pensions from insurance companies have a spread of different investments, whereas investment trust pensions go solely for shares. In an attempt to lessen the risk, investors will usually be given the option of a cash fund that you can move into if the market deteriorates. Cash funds also allow you to switch to cash before retirement to preserve any gains.

Q So what is their selling point?

A They are cheaper. For a start, they are commission-free. The charges are more transparent. Typically

there is a £100 set-up charge and an annual £50 administration fee, plus an annual management fee of 0.5 per cent. Stamp duty of 0.5 per cent will also be charged on all share purchases and switches. That, providers say, adds up to less than you pay for a conventional pension. However, it is cheaper only if the fund performs well.

Investment trust pensions are also flexible, with no penalty for stopping, starting or varying contributions, or for taking early or late retirement. Over the long term, they should be more profitable. An independent survey shows that contributions of £200 a month over 25 years, assuming 9 per cent annual growth, would yield £191,755 compared with £168,033 from the average charging traditional pension.

Q How does the new scheme from Edinburgh Fund Managers work?

A You can take a personal pension, or supplement

your company pension with additional voluntary contributions.

Edinburgh has taken the concept a step further by letting investors choose from outside funds, though you must first make a contribution to its in-house plans, Classic and Selector. Edinburgh has also added term assurance and waiver of premium options.

Q Who else offers them?

A Flemings, Foreign & Colonial and Ivory & Sims.

Q So are they for me?

A Worth considering if you don't have access to a company pension scheme. However, investment trust pensions are aimed at those who can build up substantial plans. The minimum contributions with Flemings are £1,000 lump sum and £100 monthly and with Edinburgh, £500 and £50 respectively.

Q So will investment trust pensions supersede the conventional sort?

A Doubtful. Even providers themselves are not talking revolution. Alan Bathgate, product development and sales manager at Edinburgh Fund Managers, says: "We hope to see other investment trust managers coming out with pension products. The more the merrier. But we do see the investment trust pension as an enhancement of the life company products. People can have both."

However, investment trust pensions are becoming more popular.

Mark Bolland, an independent financial adviser, says: "They will continue to expand. The performance of some traditional pension funds is dire. Compare that with a low-cost fund from an investment trust manager with a good track record and there is every reason to take one out."

SARAH JONES

Unbiased financial advice that can save you a fortune

INVESTORS and savers alike should take note of alarming statistics recently published by a leading independent financial research company. It may seem hard to believe, but if you had invested

Survey reveals greatly differing returns

£10,000 five years ago in the best performing UK Equity Growth Unit Trust, your investment would now be worth

£25,010. If, on the other hand, you had been unfortunate enough to invest in the worst performing fund in that sector, the £10,000 investment would now be worth only £10,500 - a difference in growth of over £14,000!*

These figures typify the

enlightened attitude towards investment. Steve Royal, marketing director of Investor Intelligence, the nationwide network of Independent Financial Advisers, explains: "By considering the whole investment market from an impartial standpoint, the Independent Financial Adviser can select the best performing financial products to suit a client's needs - whether the client has £5,000 or £50,000 to invest."

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*Measured over 5 years to 2nd April 1996, data to bid mass, income is presented at other price. The value of shares & the income from them can fall as well as rise, & if you withdraw from an investment in the early years, you may not get back the full amount invested. This is not necessarily a guide to future performance. For help, may say get the value depends on individual circumstances. The Financial Investment Authority (FIA) and Investor Intelligence are not regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The FIA is a registered charity, established by the Personal Investment Act 1995, to give you independent advice. This statement is approved by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). Investor Intelligence, who are members of the Financial Investment Authority. This service is available throughout the UK, Channel Islands & Isle of Man.

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The value of a fund may fall if a move is delayed, Sara McConnell advises

Time your transfer for the best returns

Changing jobs does not just mean a different journey to work every day. It can also mean making a decision on whether to leave your company pension where it is or to transfer it, either to your new company or to another scheme, a personal pension for example.

If you have worked for your existing firm for less than two years, the decision will be made for you. You will almost certainly not qualify for a transfer but will not be allowed to remain in the scheme either. Your contributions will simply be returned to you. Otherwise you can leave it with your existing employer, deferring payout until you retire, or transfer it. Your employer will give you a transfer value.

The problem with this value is that it is only guaranteed for a short time as it depends on equity and gilt price movements. Delays in accepting a transfer value can mean sharp falls, as Ian Lees, a Weekend Money reader, found out.

"On leaving Scottish Widows after six years' service, I decided to transfer my retirement benefits under the Scottish Widows retirement benefit scheme to another provider. I chose Scottish Equitable, which offered a wide range of funds and selected the spread of investment for my pension portfolio. I requested transfer details from Scottish Widows. But when they arrived they did not include the additional voluntary contributions I had made. Scottish Widows sent an amended set of figures, but because there was a delay the transfer value had changed and the value of the fund had fallen by more than £1,000."

Weekend Money replies: The scheme you were in as an employee of Scottish Widows was a scheme whose benefits were based on final salary. To give you a transfer value, Scottish Widows had to work out the value of your benefits and estimate how much it would need to pay out those same benefits when you retire. The key figure in the calculation is the potential rate of investment return. If interest rates and gilt yields rise, as they were doing when you left in June 1994, transfer values



The race is on to get hold of the best transfer



will fall because they depend on the price of gilts used to ensure that the pension scheme can pay out the benefits it has promised. When gilt yields rise, gilt prices fall.

Accordingly, Scottish Widows says it only guaranteed your transfer value for six weeks. You queried its failure to include your additional voluntary contributions. It ac-

knowledges that it should have done this and wrote to you again with a revised figure. But it argues that the additional voluntary contributions were separate from the calculation of your main pension because their value simply depended on the contributions you made and how well the contributions were invested in the stock market. They

were not linked to your salary as the main pension was.

But the delay resulted in falls both in the value of the main pension and the additional voluntary contributions, meaning there was a smaller fund to hand to Scottish Equitable. Last year Scottish Widows accepted it had some responsibility for the delay in calculating your transfer value and paid over an extra sum to Scottish Equitable to put you in the position you would have been in if you had received the original transfer value. Because markets had fallen over the time it took to resolve the problem, Scottish Widows paid over less than half of the £1,000 difference between the two transfer values it quoted you.

The problem for anyone taking a transfer value is to know whether they are getting a good deal. Independent financial advisers should use a transfer value analysis system to work out if people are better off taking a transfer. Much depends on the benefits they could expect to get in their existing scheme. Transferring money from a good occupational scheme into a personal pension, for example, would be advisable only if it could produce a good enough rate of return to allow the purchase of similar benefits to those available under the occupational scheme.

There is no need to rush to take a transfer. If you do not like the quotation you are given you can always wait until markets improve. However, Hyman Wolanski, of Wolanski and Co, the consulting actuaries, gives warning that transfer values generally look set to fall from next April, which will see changes to the way transfers are calculated. Getting your transfer offer analysed is not cheap and will probably cost £100 or more because of the complexities involved. But it could prove money well spent.

WHERE TO GO

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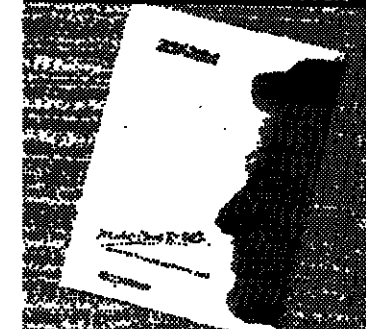
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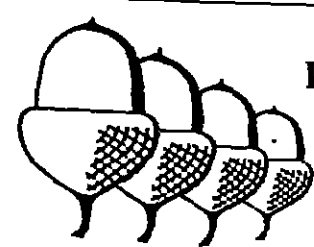
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Take your pick for value



A GUIDE TO
INVESTMENT &
UNIT TRUSTS

PART
6

The choice of trusts appears almost identical but there are vital differences, says Helen Pridham

Unit and investment trusts have much in common. For investors who want a stake in UK or overseas stock markets, they both provide an easy and relatively low-risk investment route. Both offer professionally managed share portfolios. But there are some significant differences between them. One important distinction for investors to note is the way the two types of trusts are priced.

This difference is not just a technicality. It could affect your decision about which type of trust to buy or sell at any particular time, particularly now that there are several companies offering both a unit and investment trust run by one manager pursuing the same investment policy. It is a factor which can help you to achieve better returns from your investment.

Indeed, current price levels of investment trusts are one of the reasons why investment trust experts such as Peter Walls, of Credit Lyonnais Laing, the stockbroker, believes that they represent particularly "good value" at present.

The basic difference between the two types of trusts is that while unit trust prices are calculated on the basis of the value of the assets in a fund, an investment trust's price is influenced not just by the value of the investments it holds — its net asset value — but by the supply and demand for its shares. The two rarely match precisely.

The share price often stands below the net asset value and then the trust is said to be trading at a discount. The average discount on investment trusts at present is currently about 9 per cent, but some are trading at prices as little as 0.5 per cent below asset value, while others have discounts of 25 per cent or more.

Occasionally, when the shares are in great demand, they will stand at a premium to the value of a trust's assets. Last year, for example, a number of Japanese investment trusts were trading at premiums.

Unit trusts are usually seen as more straightforward. However, investors still have to contend with two prices — an offer and bid price. The offer price is what you pay on buying the units, the bid price is what you get when you cash in. The difference between the two prices varies considerably from 0.5 per cent in the case of

some tracker trusts, such as HSBC's Footsie fund, to 8.6 per cent recently on Old Mutual's Thailand fund.

The average "spread" is about 6 per cent. It reflects mainly the fund manager's initial charge. Once this is taken into account, though, investors know that any movements in the price of their units are directly related to the value of the assets held by the trust.

For investment trust holders there are pros and cons in the way their investments are priced. In recent years, many have benefited because not only have their trusts' assets gained in value as markets have risen, but discounts have also narrowed. So the value of their holdings has risen by more than the market. Ten years ago, in the mid-1980s, average discounts were more than 20 per cent. By the middle of last year, they had shrunk to 6 per cent.

This is one of the reasons why the general performance of investment trusts measured on the basis of share price movements has been so good in recent years compared with unit trusts.

Over the past year, however, holders of investment trusts have seen something different happening. Though the UK stock market has risen, investment trust discounts have widened from an average of 6 to 9 per cent. Thanks to the performance of their underlying portfolios, however, investors have not lost out. Trust prices on average this year are up 5.2 per cent, compared with 4.5 per cent rise in the FT all-share index.

There appear to be a number of reasons for this trend including the fact that much of the potential demand from private investors has been absorbed this year by several big investment trust launches and extra share issues which between them have raised more than £1 billion.

At Credit Lyonnais Laing, Mr Walls says: "Rising markets have engendered a discount 'feel-good' factor and investors have been encouraged to follow investment fashions without regard to fundamental ratings. We are worried that some investors are disregarding the dangers of discount downside risk and ignoring the protection offered by well-managed long-established trusts."

As Jamie Berry, a financial



Sweet temptations: there are significant reasons for the difference in prices

adviser at Berry Asset Management, explains, the danger of discount volatility is greatest when specialist trusts are bought at a premium or close to asset value. He says: "If a trust is at a premium and the market falls, the chances are that the trust will not only drop in line with the market, but will lose its premium and more, so your investment will fall further than the market. A wide discount, on the other hand, can act as a cushion. The price will often go down by less. When there is a recovery it can rise faster as demand increases and the discount closes."

The discounts that have developed recently on some trusts are regarded by many professionals as buying opportunities. Nigel Sidebottom, of Gerrard Vivian Gray, says: "There is fantastic value at the moment among the flagship trusts in the sector. Foreign & Colonial, for example, is on a 9 per cent discount; TR City of London is on 8 per cent. It is years since they have been on these discounts. Both have tremendous long-term records." Long-term investors in such trusts should sit tight, he urges. "One of the common

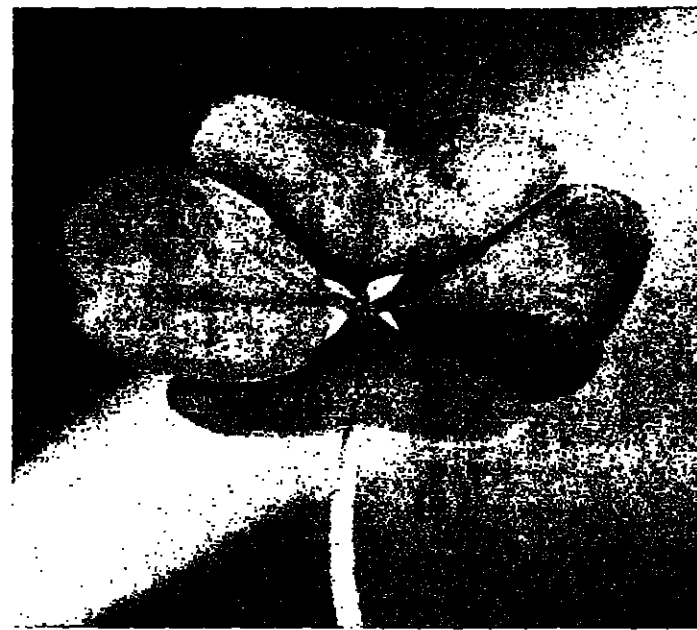
mistakes made by investors is to start selling when they should be buying," he points out. Where a manager offers both a unit and investment trust with the same investment objective, investors should compare prices. "If the investment trust is on a premium, it is better to go for the unit trust, but at present the reverse may apply. Take the M&G Recovery unit and investment trusts. Investors should be seriously considering the investment trust which is currently on an 11 per cent discount."

Large discounts do not always narrow, though. In the venture capital sector, for example, trusts such as Electra and Pantheon tend to remain permanently on discounts of more than 20 per cent because of the illiquidity of the unquoted securities they hold and the uncertainty of the valuations. In spite of this, investors can still enjoy good long-term gains.

An increasing number of investment trusts have limited lives of, say, ten years and so premiums and discounts on their shares tend to disappear as they reach the end of their

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The past gives clues to where shares are heading, David Schwartz finds



A jubilant Edward Heath after becoming Prime Minister in 1970, an indicator year for David Schwartz's analysis

Many long-running historical signals indicate that UK shares are near their bull market high.

The dividend-yield ratio (DYR), the relationship between dividends and share price, provides one worrying clue. To compute the ratio, divide the annual dividend by current share price. If a share sells at £100 and pays a dividend of £3.90, the DYR is 3.9 per cent.

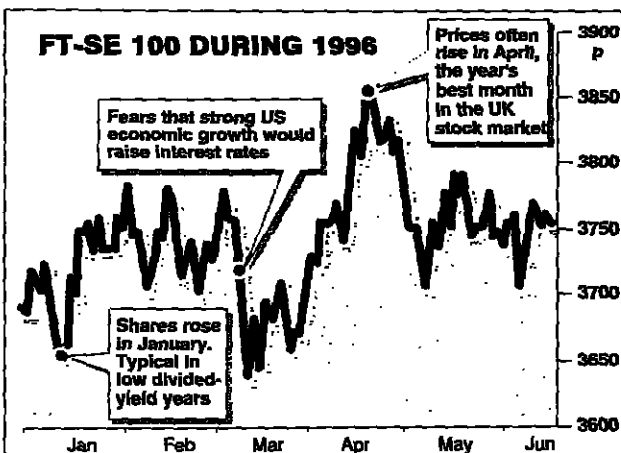
During the past half-century, the DYR began a year below 4 per cent on seven occasions. The stock market reached its high for the year, or got close to it, near the end of January in most of those years. For example, 1994 began with the DYR below 4 per cent. Prices rose until February, when the Federal Reserve began to raise interest rates. Predictably, prices fell.

So far, 1996 follows the norm. The DYR started the year under 4 per cent, the eighth time in this half of the century. Shares rose 1.9 per cent in January. They currently rest close to their end-January level. History seems to be signalling "here we go again".

Another red flag is hidden in the cyclical, a monthly group of indices prepared by the Office for National Statistics to monitor the UK economy. Two indices that do a good job of spotting stock market peaks are the shorter leading index, which flags turning points in the economy six months in advance, and the coincident index, designed to rise and fall in lock step with actual economic growth.

Bull market peaks have

High odds of a fall in the market



always occurred within 14 months of a rise on the shorter leading index above the preceding month's score, and a reading of 101.4 or higher on the coincident index. A warning flashed in February 1995. Prices have been sluggish in recent weeks. While the current weak stretch may turn out to be temporary, the message of the past is that further falls are due.

History also shows that the percentage of shares that rise on any single day fluctuates widely. But over a 50-day period, that percentage usually

rests within a range of 11 to 20 per cent. Since 1970, there have been 11 occasions when the 50-day average rose above 21 per cent during a bull market that had run for at least one year. Ten signals flashed close to a multi-month decline or plateau. Clearly, profit odds are low after a red flag on this indicator. The 30-day average recently rose above 21 per cent for the first time in this bull market, another sign of low profit odds ahead.

In the first half of this century, long-term up-moves typically ran 72 months before fac-

ing a major correction. From 1950-75, the average upturn ended after just 24 months, one third of the prewar length.

In the final quarter of this century, the shortening process accelerated. Some commentators describe this period as a single multidecade up-move. In fact, since 1975, we have seen eight rallies, each separated by a decline of at least 15 per cent. The longest, an atypical 70-month up-turn, ended spectacularly in 1987. The remaining seven ran just 16 months on average, with the longest running 21 months.

A new bull market began in June 1994, 24 months ago, number nine in the century's final quarter. Prices have changed little in the past few months. Is it possible that this drift is temporary and the rally will soon resume? Yes, it is possible. However, the historical record suggests this bull market is quite mature and the next downturn is overdue.

The UK stock market rose every quarter since June 1994, seven in a row. If the FTSE 100 closes above 3,700 on June 28, it will be eight ups in a row. Non-stop rallies like this are rare. There have been just 12 this century that ran five or more consecutive quarters. Since the Second World War, none ran longer than seven in a row. There is no guarantee that the current rally will end just because it has done so in the past. Still, as far as this indicator goes, history signals low-profit odds in the near future.

David Schwartz's latest book, *Bull Market Buy Signals That Withstood The Test of Time*, will be published later this year by Burleigh Publishing Company.

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Alliance savers hit as top rates are bonus-free

The Alliance & Leicester Building Society doubtless hoped to score a couple of Browne points with its members when it announced plans to convert itself to a bank at the beginning of the year. It promised savers that they would not lose their right to a bonus if they wanted to move their money from one share account to another, between announcement and conversion.

What it did not say so clearly was that it had restructured its savings accounts so that the best rates were paid on new deposit accounts set up just before the announcement. Surprise, surprise, holders of deposit accounts are not members and do not qualify for bonus payments.

Brian Gray, a Weekend Money reader, invested £15,000 in Alliance & Leicester's Bonus 90 share account early in 1995. Now this has been converted from a 90-day notice to a 30-day notice account, paying just 3.75 per cent gross on balances of between £10,000 and £24,999. This includes an annual bonus of 0.5 per cent.

By contrast, the new Prime 90 deposit account pays 5.2 per cent gross. If the society's conversion goes ahead (which depends on the members), savers trying to get a better rate on their investment by moving to Prime 90 would not qualify for a bonus payout. One possibility for existing savers in Mr Gray's position, as he points out, is to move from the Bonus 90 account to Bonus 180, also a share account. Bonus 180 is now a 60-day notice account. But it still pays slightly less (5.15 per cent) on £15,000 than Prime 90.

This week Alliance & Leicester repeated its pledge that savers would not be penalised by moving from one share account to another. It also confirmed that deposit ac-



count holders do not count as members. These are valuable clues to members who are still being kept in the dark about the likely amount of payouts or how the share out will be structured on conversion.

Alliance & Leicester is among a number of building societies that have made strenuous efforts to keep out "speculators" by restructuring their accounts and, incidentally, preserving the margin between what they pay to savers and what they receive from borrowers.

But its manipulation of interest rates has not endeared itself to customers like Mr Gray, who says: "I accept that business is business and hopefully I will benefit significantly from any ultimate share distribution by the Alliance & Leicester. However... I also feel that existing mutual societies should be able to offer a better deal for many customers/members if there was any effective way that members could influence management and control the target level for acquisition of profits and any distribution of pre-existing reserves."

Last week, the Northern Rock, which also plans to convert, was forced to announce that it would be opening a share version of its competitive Great North post-al account after protests that the deposit version did not qualify holders for membership. The pressure is on.

SARA MCCONNELL



Ownership of the OFC birds, which are under the care of a Belgian ostrich farmer, is unclear

Official Receiver given the birds

Robert Miller
on the latest developments for ostrich investors

Somewhere between here and Belgium around 3,600 ostriches acquired a new owner this week. Michael Pugh, the Official Receiver, will now work on assuring the long-term future of his new charges and, where possible, reunite them with their owners, some of whom have paid up to £14,500 for a mature breeder.

Officially, Mr Pugh has been the shepherd to about 3,000 of the birds since he applied to the courts at Easter for the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC), the firm that sold the ostriches to UK investors, to be wound up.

On Tuesday this week in the High Court, Mr Justice Lightman formally wound up OFC, giving the green light to the Official Receiver to continue his efforts in trying to untangle what is an exceedingly complex web. In that web are thousands of anxious bird-owners, a number of whom previously relied on an "income" from the ostriches to earn a living.

In a separate move this week, but one that signals the Department of Trade and Industry's general concern about certain ostrich ventures, Mr Pugh was appointed the provisional liquidator to another firm, Pinstripe Farming Corporation. This company looked after about 600 birds in the UK. The advice is that Pinstripe owners should write to Mr Pugh with details and documentation of their ownership.

The case of OFC, which is under formal investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, attracted strong criticism about

he hoped to make a decision much sooner. The judge also acknowledged the existence of the 1,600-strong Ostrich Owners Protection Group (OOPG). Derek Bradley, a founder member of the group, said: "We are not taking sides with the OFC or the DTI. We want to look at what happens now and how we can protect our birds. We believe that there is a commercial future for ostrich farming, but whatever we decide, and we are looking at a number of options such as an owners' group company, it will comply with the law. We are in touch with Eddy Nachtergaele's representative in London."

One problem about a potential rescue company is that it could fall foul of the Financial Services Act (FSA).

Pamela Marshall of the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, says: "Past experience has shown that schemes of this type have given rise to difficulties because some of them have breached the FSA as unauthorised collective investment schemes. Any such schemes have to be looked at on their own merits to see whether or not they need authorisation or break the law."

A solution to the Pinstripe and OFC problem is likely to be a tortuous one. But to those contemplating such an investment the attention of, at different times the SFO, the DTI and the DTI should be enough to sound a note of caution. Ostrich Owners Protection Group: High Trees, Oakridge, Wetherby LS22 6GT. Official Receiver: 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3SS

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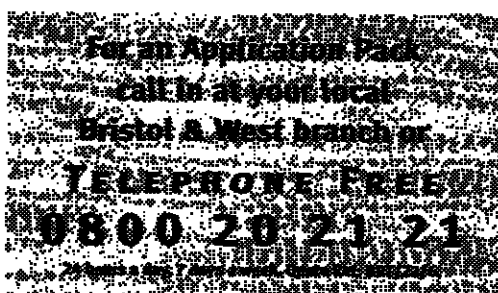
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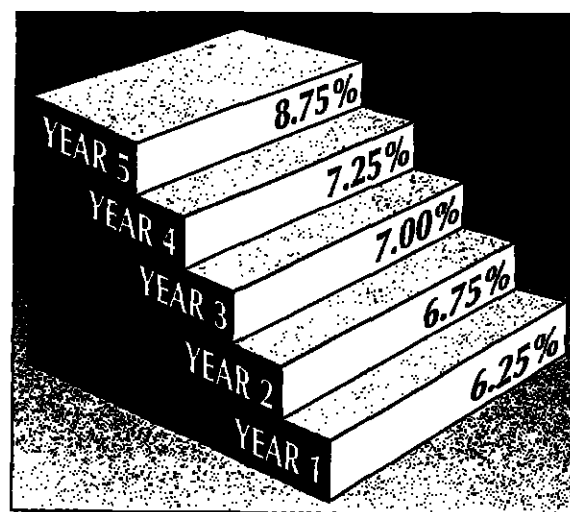
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Jody Brett Kelly on a tax anomaly that can upset the best-laid building plans



Robert Sandall, right, holding a consultation with Chris Ellard, his accountant, in the refurbished £14,000 attic

Self-employed workers who want to offset taxes against money spent on converting their lofts or barns into offices or workshops may find themselves caught up in a tax anomaly.

Customs and Excise will normally allow VAT-registered traders to reclaim all the VAT spent on the conversion, because it views it as a business expense. However, the Inland Revenue will not permit you to claim the expense against tax unless you can prove that the money was spent on repairs to an existing office and not on improvements.

Robert Sandall, a music critic working for Virgin Records and presenter of Radio 3's *Mixing It*, spent £14,000 refurbishing an attic space at his home in Hammersmith, west London, to enable him to work there. He also intended to use it as a place to store and listen to his extensive collection of tapes and records. The work included installing stairs, windows and washing facilities.

Mr Sandall, 44, considered this to be a legitimate business expense but tax law contains an anomaly which rules that only repair work "occasioned by normal wear and tear" is allowed as expenses. Improve-

Hidden trap in an attic conversion

ments and reconstruction to premises are considered to be of a capital nature and therefore not allowed.

The Inland Revenue disputed the entire claim on these grounds, suggesting that as no office existed before, he was in fact enhancing the property rather than repairing an existing office.

VAT criteria are different and after a Customs and Excise officer inspected the premises he was able to reclaim the full amount of VAT — £2,500.

Mr Sandall consulted Chris Ellard of Neville Ellard, his

Surrey-based accountant who specialises in tax claims by actors and performing artists. After meeting the tax inspector they were able to demonstrate that the attic had been used to

store equipment and because it was being used as storage again, the work undertaken included a considerable element of repair and refurbishment.

Eventually, the Inland Revenue allowed Mr Sandall to claim around 30 per cent of the expenditure against his taxes. Being a higher-rate taxpayer, this represented a saving of £1,400.

Mr Sandall says: "It was still very disappointing that I couldn't claim the whole lot. I set out thinking all that money I spent would be tax deductible. In my case, it wasn't ruinous but for some people it may be."

Mr Ellard says that it is important to consider the previous use of the space you are considering converting, and to underline the fact that it was used as an office or storage space previously. If you are restructuring the space into something totally different — for example soundproofing a garage — you could run into problems.

It helps, too, to photograph the room before and after, to show exactly what has been done to it. It is also helpful to have different companies specifying the work they have undertaken, or if you are using a loft conversion company to get it to provide a full breakdown of the precise repair and renewal work.

Mr Ellard says: "Repair work is not specifically defined, which means it is open to different interpretations. The inspector has no idea exactly what has been undertaken so you have to demonstrate exactly what you've spent your money on."

It is vital to consider the previous use of the space to be converted

INVESTORS CHRONICLE
THE CITY INSIDE OUT

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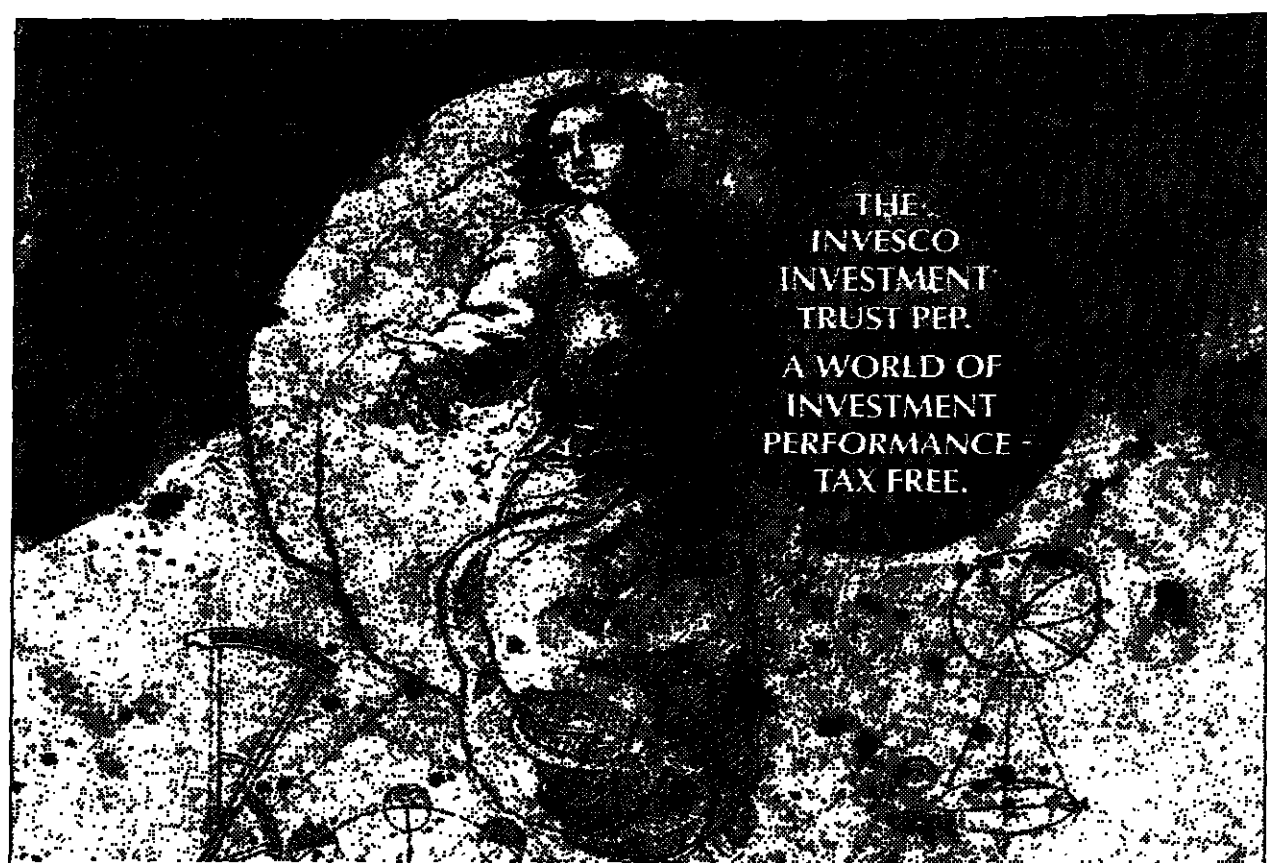
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Cheques made payable to Woolwich Building Society. Interest to be paid annually/monthly/delete as appropriate.

Please send the further details of the Woolwich 3 Year Guaranteed Growth Bond: ☐

Name _____

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Signed _____

"You can with
the Woolwich"

Gross rates for monthly income: Year 1: 6.08%, Year 2: 6.78%, Year 3: 8.42%.
*Interest will be payable net of the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%), or subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower or basic tax bands, the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Rates are fixed as shown for 3 years from the date the account is opened until 31.3.1999, Year 1 from the date of opening account up to and including 31.3.97, Year 2 1.6.97 - 31.3.98, Year 3 1.6.98 - 31.3.99. Interest will be calculated daily, from the day of receipt in the case of a deposit of cash and from the fourth bank working day after receipt in the case of a deposit by cheque. Proof of identity may be required. No withdrawals are permitted during the 3 year term. Additional investments are permitted only while this issue of the Bond is still on offer. Full terms and conditions available on request from any Woolwich branch, Woolwich Building Society, Corporate HQ, Watling Street, Beale Heath, Kent DA6 7BR.

TGB4

Postal accounts beat the strike

A second 24-hour national strike has been announced from noon on Thursday June 27 to noon on Friday June 28 by Royal Mail workers. The first strike was yesterday. In view of the likely disruption to the postal service, the following arrangements will apply for postal account customers.

Nationwide Invest Direct Postal Account holders can make emergency cheque withdrawals at any branch between Thursday and Tuesday. Cash withdrawals can be made as usual from cash machines. Any cheques received at Invest Direct on Monday will be backdated to Friday so that customers suffer no loss of interest.

Bristol and West Direct Savings (postal and telephone) account holders can use the telephone option to access up to £25,000. Cheques will still be sent out by post. Postal Deposit Account customers will be able to make transactions only by post.

Birmingham Midlands will collect all post that has been sorted by midnight on Thursday direct from the local sorting office the next morning. Staff levels will also be increased for Saturday and Monday to cover the anticipated

ed higher volumes and a helpline has been set up to deal with any queries on 01902 302883. Customers will also be able to use any of the 114 branches on Thursday, Friday or Saturday to pay in or withdraw cheques on production of a First Class passbook plus another form of identification.

Alliance & Leicester postal account holders can arrange by phone to collect cheque withdrawals at local branches. Branches can also be used as post-boxes to deposit cheques.

To arrange transactions by telephone call 0645 645660. Cheltenham & Gloucester customers can open or add to an account at any C&G branch as normal. Withdrawals can be made at a local branch on Friday and Saturday.

Leeds & Holbeck has made no special provisions to cover the strike. If customers need to make an urgent transaction, the usual arrangements apply at a cost of £30. Call 0113 225 7777.

Northern Rock suggests that customers adjust transaction times to avoid strike days. Call 0191 2794405 (postal investment inquiries only).

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at September 20, 1995

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	AIG Life	4.85
10,000	AIG Life	4.95
20,000	AIG Life	5.15
50,000	Gen Life & Pensions	5.20
2 Years		
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.70
10,000	AIG Life	5.70
20,000	AIG Life	5.80
50,000	AIG Life	5.90
3 Years		
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.10
10,000	AIG Life	6.03
20,000	AIG Life	6.08
50,000	AIG Life	6.18
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.00
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.40
50,000	AIG Life	6.41
5 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.45
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.65
15,000	Abney Life	6.80
50,000	Abney Life	7.00

Source: Chamberlain de Brou 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

BEST RATES					
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS					
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
Portman BS 01202 292444	Instant Acc	£100	4.80	Y/Y	
Alliance & Leic BS 0645 645660	Instant Dir	£5,000	5.40	Y/Y	
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	£10,000	5.75	Y/Y	
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Gt Nth Postal	£25,000	6.50	A/Y/Y	
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS					
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
Coventry BS 0345 685522	Postal 50	50 day p	£2,000	5.45	Y/Y
First National BS 0800 558844	90 Day Notice	90 day p	£10,000	6.20	Y/Y
Scarborough BS 0800 580578	Scarborough 100	100 day	£1,000	6.50	Y/Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal Dep Bond	30.6.99	£2,500	7.50	F/Y/Y
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)					
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Y/Y	
NorthWest Bank 0800 220400	5 year	£1,000	7.45	F/Y/Y	
Birmingham Midlands 0645 720721	5 year	£1,000	7.25	Y/Y	
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£500	7.00	Y/Y	

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS				
CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.886% C	11.20%	NIL
NetWest Bank 0800 200400	Access	0.95% N	12.00% N	NIL
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS				
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs		
		with insurance	no insurance	
Direct Line 0141 2489866	13.90% E	£112.86	£101.33	
Yorkshire Bank 0345 181920	14.60%	£117.68	£102.09	
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49	

Nb. A = All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest. C = No interest free period. E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years. F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = Introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01682 600 677)

PIBS

LARG

	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
FIXED RATE					
Birmingham Midlands	9.375%	99.69	9.393	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	118.76	9.789	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	133.02	9.773	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	138.16	9.679	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	133.12	9.788	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	124.66	9.702	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	116.03	10.127	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	92.00	9.510	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	123.75	9.589	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	141.78	9.610	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	138.28	9.673	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	114.37	9.388	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	133.29	9.476	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	135.07	9.347	100.14	1,000
Skipston	12.875%	133.32	9.657	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE

	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09/21/03) 8.58750%	104.63	100.00	1,000	
First Nat (20/09/09) 8.706250%	101.13	100.00	1,000	

PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing shares
 Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett - 0171 601 0101

SHARE IN FOCUS:
SOUTHERN ELECTRIC: SHARES
RISE ON HOPS OF BUY-BACK

Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

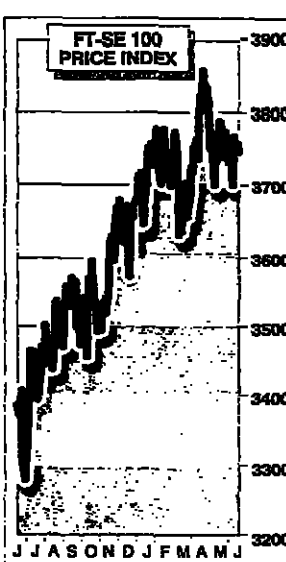
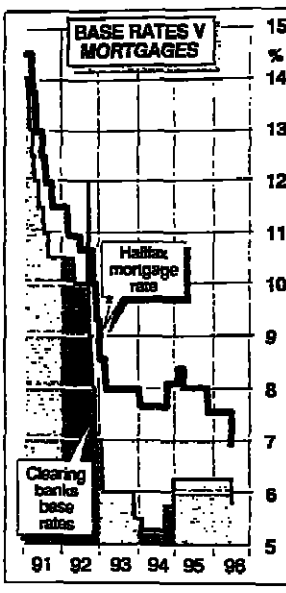
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	Interest rate %
Building Societies	
Bristol & West	0.95
0800 608088	
Alliance & Leicester	1.50
0118 2726265	
Northern Rock	0.59
0800 591 500	
Banks	
Nat West Home Loan	1.54
0800 400989	
Bank of Ireland	2.98
01734 510100	
Building Societies	
Hinckley & Rugby	0.00
0800 774499	
Scarborough	0.05
0800 590547	
Nottingham Imper.	0.75
0115 9817220	
Banks	
Bank of Ireland	0.99
01734 510100	
NatWest Bank	1.84
0800 400989	

PBS = Permanent Interest-bearing shares
Source: ASB AMRO House Govest - 0171 601 0101

SHARE IN FOCUS: SOUTHERN ELECTRIC SHARES RISE ON HOPES OF BUY-BACK

Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun 99



J A S O N D J F M A M J

BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX

91 92 93 94 95 96

Clearing banks (BTL) rates

Halifax mortgage rates

91 92 93 94 95 96

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BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX

91 92 93 94 95 96

Gross rate	At tax rate 20%	Minimum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c	1.75	1.00	10-10,000**	0645 645000
Investment A/c*	5.00	4.00	20-500***	0645 645000
Income Bond*	6.25	5.00	3,752.00-25,000**	0645 645000
First Opt Bond	6.25	5.00	3,751.00-20,000**	0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert	5.35		100-10,000	0645 645000
Children's Bond	6.75		25-1,000	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51		100-250,000	0645 645000
Capital Bonds	6.65	5.32	100-10,000	0645 645000
9th Index Linked	2.50		100-10,000	0645 645000
Pennine Bond SS + 7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	0645 645000

* Best 5% (140 p) of net tax free, first 10% for up to £100. ** Additional hedge up to £20,000 for 5 years. *** Tax free. * Rates gross and include 10% guaranteed when held for 5 years. ** 10% net bonus for £20,000. £10,000 in addition to 5% and 10% bonuses. * Taxable but credit in full 1990-1991 (10% higher rates). * Tended rates apply.

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)		Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
MGM Assur	Level	£10,562	£11,625	£13,079
Prudential	Level	£10,467	£11,495	£12,893
Canada Life	Level	£10,058	£11,227	£12,628
Norwich Un	Level	£10,261	£11,221	£12,593
Stalwart	Level	£10,173	£11,215	£12,513
SINGLE LIFE		Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
MGM Assur	Level	£9,829	£10,580	£11,697
Norwich Un	Level	£9,722	£10,458	£11,549
Prudential	Level	£9,710	£10,443	£11,528
Stalwart	Level	£9,705	£10,438	£11,524
Royal Life	Level	£9,305	£10,138	£11,364
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)		Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
MGM Assur	Level	£9,425	£10,032	£10,900
Prudential	Level	£9,328	£9,985	£10,708
Norwich Un	Level	£9,301	£9,947	£10,637
Stalwart	Level	£9,280	£9,926	£10,615
Sun Life of Can	Level	£9,002	£9,568	£10,378

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers. Source: Annuity Desk (0171 588 9363)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Bay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Bay's Guides, 01753 880422.

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THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Injustices of the state pension system

From Mr R. Rench

Sir, In Anne Ashworth's Pension Postbag (June 8), two state pensioners complain that since their wives have qualified for pensions on their own insurance, they should be able to receive them in addition to those based on their husbands' insurance. Instead, the women receive just the higher of the two entitlements.

But, if that is to be regarded as an inequitable situation, then so it is with every bachelor pensioner. Assuming the same level of earnings throughout their identical qualifying periods, the bachelor will have contributed precisely the same amount of National Insurance contributions as his married counterpart, yet in return receive £36.60 a week less.

Certainly, spinster state pensioners cannot complain about their treatment. In addition to paying lower rates of contributions than men during the earlier years of the National Insurance scheme, gender has made no difference to the level of entitlement and, although generally longer-living, they have been able to claim their pensions five years earlier.

Since state pensions are not funded entirely through an actuarially based scheme, arguments about returns for contributions paid are really only of academic interest. It would be more truthful if such payments were regarded as just another form of taxation.

Yours sincerely,

ROLAND RENCH,

8 Minshull Place,

Park Road, Beckenham, Kent.

From Mrs J. Harding

Sir, I was very interested in your article with regard to married women and the state pension. I am in this category and find that, as I am two years younger than my husband, I receive a pension in my own right for only three years. If I was two years older, I would receive it for seven years, for the same contributions.

It is very annoying to have paid full NI contributions to obtain a very small measure of independence to be no better off once my husband is 65 than I would be if I had never worked and contributed to both income tax and NI.

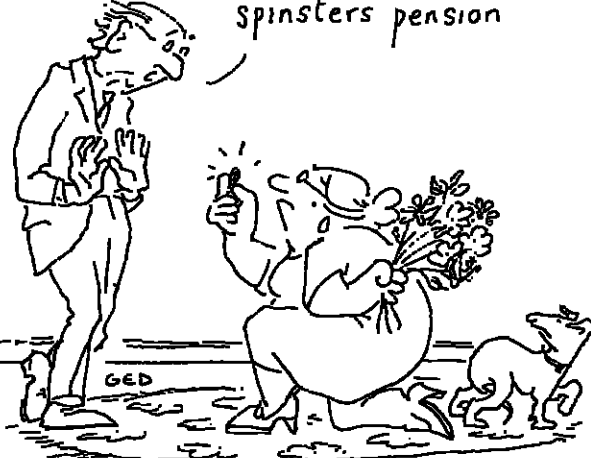
Yours sincerely,

JILL HARDING,

7 Arthur Road,

Wokingham, Berkshire.

you know I would, darling...
but we need your
spinster's pension



Sterling service

From Ms R. Hill

Sir, I was interested to read Caroline Merrell's article (June 15) on comparative costs of traveller's cheques. It would, however, be interesting to know what each company's policy is in relation to lost or stolen traveller's cheques.

I had £150 of them stolen recently in Madrid. Thomas Cook, from whom I purchased them, replaced them promptly with the minimum of fuss. Would the other 13 organisations all do the same, or was the 2 per cent commission charge justified for this service? Obviously, I much appreciated Thomas Cook's action.

Yours faithfully,

ROSEMARY HILL,

Ivy House, 78 High Street,

Hampton-upon-Thames.

Traditional friendly societies maintain strong returns and bonus rates to beat life companies

From Mr C. Bennie

Sir, Your editorial relating to friendly society performance (June 15) has ignored the very strong returns from traditional friendly societies offering with-profits (as opposed to unit-linked) plans.

Friendly societies such as Scottish Friendly and Tunbridge Wells, established more than 100 years ago, have produced consistent top ten with-profits performance for ten-year plans, as measured by Money Management magazine, placing us ahead of life companies like Standard Life, Norwich Union and Scottish Amicable. Based on a £25 per month investment over ten years to June 1, 1996, for a

male aged 30 at outset, Scottish Friendly's return was a healthy 10.6 per cent per annum. I am delighted to report that, in a year when many other life offices have been reducing their with-profits bonus rates, Scottish Friendly has maintained 1996 bonus rates at last year's levels.

As well as failing to consider with-profits friendly society performance, your editorial section last Saturday made some unfair comments on the ability of friendly societies to cater for the long-term needs

of members through the provision of pensions and other benefits. Traditional friendly societies, such as Scottish Friendly and Tunbridge Wells, which enjoy strong with-profits performance, making our tax-exempt plans so popular with the general public, were originally established to help lower income families to provide for their future at a time when the welfare state did not exist.

We continue to provide, through our home-service operation, a valuable financial

planning service to this section of the community, who may otherwise not be able to make adequate financial provision for their future.

Given the outlook for state provision of welfare benefits, this role, as envisaged by the Association of Friendly Societies, will continue to be an important one.

Yours sincerely,

CALUM BENNIE,

Scottish Friendly Assurance,

Scottish Friendly House,

16 Blythswood Square,

Glasgow.

IR and the simplification of tax returns

From Mr J. M. Agar

Sir, I note from Weekend Money (June 15) that for 1995 the Royal Bank of Scotland will prepare for its customers a "complete and accurate tax return in a form acceptable to the Inland Revenue. The return will be calculated from a simple customer questionnaire. The service ... also

ensures that all tax relief and allowances are claimed".

With the present Government committed to cutting red tape, why cannot the Revenue achieve this simplicity, free?

Yours faithfully,

J. M. AGAR,

8 Highfield View,

Gildersome,

Leeds.

CGT ALLOWANCES — MAY 1996

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in May 1996

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	-	0.851	0.761	0.676	0.589	0.529	0.480	0.377
February	-	0.843	0.753	0.663	0.583	0.523	0.474	0.368
March	0.925	0.840	0.748	0.648	0.581	0.520	0.469	0.362
April	0.887	0.814	0.725	0.613	0.566	0.502	0.445	0.338
May	0.873	0.807	0.718	0.606	0.563	0.500	0.440	0.330
June	0.868	0.802	0.714	0.603	0.563	0.500	0.434	0.325
July	0.867	0.793	0.716	0.606	0.568	0.502	0.433	0.324
August	0.867	0.785	0.700	0.601	0.563	0.498	0.417	0.320
September	0.868	0.777	0.697	0.602	0.555	0.493	0.411	0.311
October	0.859	0.770	0.688	0.600	0.553	0.488	0.396	0.301
November	0.850	0.764	0.681	0.594	0.540	0.479	0.390	0.290
December	0.853	0.760	0.683	0.592	0.535	0.480	0.386	0.287
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996		
January	0.279	0.174	0.128	0.109	0.082	0.047	0.018	
February	0.272	0.168	0.122	0.102	0.076	0.041	0.013	
March	0.259	0.164	0.119	0.098	0.073	0.037	0.009	
April	0.222	0.149	0.102	0.087	0.060	0.026	0.002	
May	0.212	0.146	0.098	0.084	0.057	0.022		
June	0.207	0.140	0.098	0.084	0.057	0.021		
July	0.206	0.143	0.102	0.087	0.062	0.025		
August	0.194	0.140	0.101	0.082	0.057	0.020		
September	0.183	0.136	0.097	0.078	0.054	0.015		
October	0.173	0.132	0.093	0.076	0.053	0.021		
November	0.176	0.128	0.094	0.080	0.052	0.021		
December	0.177	0.127	0.098	0.078	0.047	0.015		

The 1st month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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- ANALYST UPDATES ON BRITISH ENERGY AFTER THE ISSUE
- AUTOMATIC ENTRY IN OUR DRAW FOR A HOLIDAY IN BARBADOS

Issued by
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN STOCKBROKERS LTD
Kendal House, 4 Brighton Mews, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2NX

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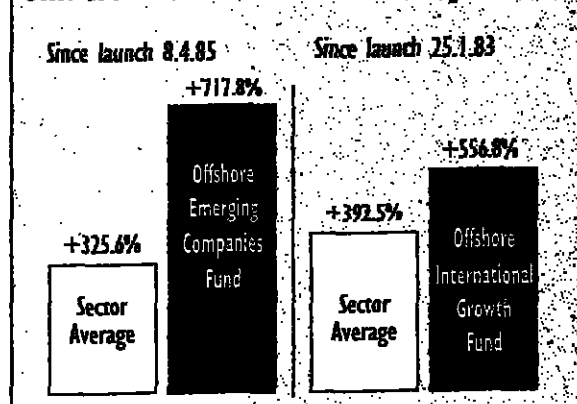


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Print Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Over the past 5 years, 4 out of 8 funds have achieved top quartile performance including the Perpetual Offshore International Growth Fund +67.6% and the Perpetual Offshore Emerging Companies Fund +135.4%. Statistics are to 1st June 1996 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Micropal). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested. Perpetual has expressed its own views and opinions in this advertisement and these may be subject to change.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1990-1991

1990-1991

1990-1991

BANKS

1990-1991

1990-1991

1990-1991

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1990-1991

1990-1991

1990-1991

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1990-1991

1990-1991

1990-1991

BUILDING MATERIALS

1990-1991

1990-1991

1990-1991

CHEMICALS

1990-1991

1990-1991

1990-1991

DISTRIBUTORS

1990-1991

1990-1991

1990-1991

Gilts higher but equities are flat

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
556	452	Almad Doncegot	452	-	5	6.4
625	500	Budweiser (NY)	567	-	2	2.7
131	96	Burnt Sausage	96	-	2	6.5
753	615	Chimney A1	753	+ 18	20	19
464	411	Black Mist	415	-	6	4.7
493	435	Endeavour	449	-	2	4.2
377	315	Highland Duet	315	-	2	1.7
195	150	Macaroni-Gins	188	-	3	2.7
800	656	Matthew Clark	785	-	1	3.5
139	33	Mayflower W	131	-	1	1.9
2612	1706	St. Andrew's	1900	-	43	20

Seles eases injury concerns with success at double

0.6%, 6 Cents. 37
U Take: 9 from 67
from 68, 12.2%.

CRICKET: PRASAD WRAPS UP ENGLAND FIRST INNINGS DURING DAY OF ATTRITION WHICH LEAVES SECOND TEST EVENLY POISED

India's resistance stiffens after Russell's century

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (second day of five): India, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 261 runs behind England

THERE was a time yesterday, with Jack Russell exulting in a century and India wondering where their next wicket could come from, when England seemed about to take complete command of this second Cornhill Test. But the longer the day continued the less inclined the Indians became to submit meekly once again. With Sachin Tendulkar at the wicket, all things remain possible.

England were bowled out for 344, having lost their last four wickets for 18 in a contrary flurry of strokes. India's rebuffing batting suffered an early blow and then re-trenched stoically. It was a day on which the game moved only slowly, runs coming at barely two per over, and the overall picture was no clearer at close of play than at the start.

Modern Test cricket is played at a frenetic pace. Few days are as attritional and

positional as this and many of the capacity crowd seemed unsure of its merits. From outside the pavilion remained full, taking giving way to cocktails while the cricket proceeded, unseen, at its leisurely pace. Only when Tendulkar emerged did interest perk up.

For England, and especially for Graham Thorpe, the day had a disappointing start. Thorpe makes too few centuries and here was as good a chance as he will get to improve his ratio. He all but ran himself out without facing a ball, then struck the next ball imperiously for four.

This was a stroke to settle the nerves but but in the next over from Javagal Srinath, India's third with the new ball, he was undone by additional bounce and could only deflect the ball down into his stumps. If this was no more than Srinath deserved for his perseverance, it was rather less than Thorpe deserved for an innings of pace and precision. Russell now needed to assume the principal role — not

that he had been subservient during the sixth-wicket stand of 136. Rather, he had batted from the outset with the positive intent that he consciously banished during his strokeless and painful night in the opening Test. Russell learned from that failure the folly of reverting to introspection and, here, to the delight of an ardent crowd, he was a different player.

He can be unwatchable at times but, when he leaves his eccentricities in the dressing-room and adopts the attitude that he will go out to hit the ball, he is a capable and endearing batsman. His footwork here was nimble and active and there were times when he made two, even three movements down the pitch to drive the seamers.

Russell's century came with a cut for two to third man and he reacted with unforced euphoria, leaping and punching the air, flourishing his bat to every part of the ground and embracing his partner, Chris Lewis. The crowd stood and roared their approval, for Russell is not only as laddish and fidgety as Thursday's hero, Dickie Bird, he is also every bit as popular.

His only previous century for England was made in his fifth Test, at Old Trafford against the 1989 Australians. His average, however, is now pushing 30 and this was far from being the first time that he has made runs with England in dire need.

Bating was not remotely as hazardous as it had been on Thursday but Srinath, in particular, still commanded constant respect. He is a bowler of deceptive speed, capable of generating disturbing lift from a good length, and he beat Russell's outside edge several times as, perversely, the wicketkeeper dropped the tempo of his batting. Having reached his century in less than four hours, he spent more than two hours adding another 24, operating entirely in singles either side of lunch.

His partnership with an



Russell celebrates his second century for England with a leap and a punch at Lord's

admirably correct Lewis had yielded 83 when the bottom inexplicably fell out of the innings. The beneficiary of this dramatic shift of mood was Venkatesh Prasad, who took four for seven in 32 balls to complete a five-wicket return in only his second Test. Prasad had bowled with great heart and skill for a day and a half but he did not need

to work very hard for these sudden riches. Lewis was well caught behind, following a ball he might earlier have left alone, and both Dominic Cork and Peter Martin fell to expansive strokes. Russell, in danger of being abandoned, picked the wrong ball to assault and sliced a catch to mid-off.

When the inevitable Cork

had Rathore superbly caught at third slip by Hussain, an Indian decline loomed in the evening sunshine. But Mongia, a makeshift opener, performed with credit for two hours before umpire Bird adjudged him leg-before to Lewis, whereupon Tendulkar and the debutant, Ganguly, saw out the day without serious concern.

Kumble finds confidence running thin

MICHAEL HENDERSON



THIS Test series is running along well-established lines in most respects, confirming what people already knew about the key India players. Tendulkar gave a marvellous exhibition of batting at Edgbaston, and may provide further delight today. Srinath has bowled splendidly, though not always luckily. Prasad has shown promise and there is, one hopes, a decent innings in Azharuddin.

As for the bowler who was thought to be India's matchwinner, a penny for his thoughts. Anil Kumble took 105 wickets for Northamptonshire last year at 20 runs apiece. So far this summer, he has taken one England wicket, at a cost of 146 runs. Allowing for the undeniable fact that he has bowled on pitches that have helped the men who seam and swing the ball, Kumble has bowled poorly.

The tour schedule, and the wet early-season weather, has affected him more than most. Had the Indians arrived in England yesterday, as the Pakistanis did, they would have harder pitches to play on, with the chance of finding the sort of wearing last-day surfaces that Kumble found so helpful last year, when he sustained Northamptonshire's championship challenge.

Instead, he has been forced to bowl himself "in" with cold fingers on some fairly miserable days, and then struggled to find his best form. The batting failures of the side have brought additional pressure on the bowlers, so that he now appears a shadow of the wrist spinner that English batsmen remember, although it is not only in England that he has excelled. A Test record of 111 wickets at an average of 25 is the work of a very good bowler.

England's batsmen, believed to be vulnerable to leg spin because they encounter it rarely, have played him with comparative ease, or at least prior acquaintance. Kumble is not the kind of leg spinner Warne is, or before him, Qadir. He pushes it through

at a brisk pace, and batsmen have shown that they can prosper by playing through the line of the ball: in fact, treating him as they would a bowler who brings the ball back into them, rather than one who spins it away.

In his early overs at Edgbaston, the batsmen played him with something close to disdain. He was not able even to subdue them and, although he bowled tightly enough in England's first innings here, his inability to get men out is a serious worry to a captain who must manipulate a thinning bowling attack.

Happily, India have found a bowler in Prasad. He was outstanding at times in the first Test, which was also his first Test, and he fully deserved the five wickets that he has taken so far in this match.

Lord's, with its famous slope, is always a challenge for the bowler who has never bowled there, and some of those who have bowled there for years never take to it. He was assisted by good catching.

However frustrated Kumble may feel at the moment, he can always look at the way that Russell has transformed his career in the past year from a distinctly unpromising position. Bowling, like batting and many other things, is largely about rhythm and confidence. Alas, those are qualities that India, set upon by opponents and upset by internal squabbles, have, at present, not got.

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

INDIA won toss		4-23-03, Mumbai 286-8-6-0 (10 overs, 1-0-50, 9-23-24, 2-1-60, 5-4-6-10, 11-23-20), 5-15-24-82 (10), 6-1-13-0-21, 7-1-0-0-20, 8-1-0-0-13, 9-1-0-0-13, Tendulkar 2-1-10 (10-2)
ENGLAND: First Innings		
*M A Atherton lbw b Srinath (20m, 5 balls)	0	
A J Stewart b Srinath (135m, 51 balls, 3 overs)	26	
N Hussain c Rathore b Ganguly (170m, 710 balls, 5 overs)	30	
G P Thorpe b Srinath (22m, 170 balls, 10 overs)	89	
G A Hick c Srinath b Ganguly (10m, 9 balls)	1	
R C Iremi b Prasad (10m, 2 balls)	1	
TH C Russell c Tendulkar b Prasad (137m, 261 balls, 12 overs)	124	
C Lewis c Mongia b Prasad (156m, 116 balls, 3 overs)	31	
D G Ganguly c Mongia b Prasad (23m, 24 balls)	4	
P A Martin c Tendulkar b Prasad (10m, 8 balls, 1 over)	0	
A D Mullally not out (6m, 3 balls)	0	
Extras (15, 11, 11, 11, 11)	55	
Total (290.0 overs, 1155m)	344	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Stewart) 26, 2-1 (Hick) 27, 3-2 (Iremi) 28, 4-3 (Thorpe) 89, 5-4 (Hussain) 119, 6-5 (Mullally) 124, 7-6 (Ganguly) 125, 8-7 (Prasad) 126, 9-8 (Russell) 127, 10-9 (Atherton) 128, 11-10 (Stewart) 129, 12-11 (Hussain) 130, 13-12 (Mullally) 131, 14-13 (Ganguly) 132, 15-14 (Prasad) 133, 16-15 (Russell) 134, 17-16 (Hick) 135, 18-17 (Iremi) 136, 19-18 (Mullally) 137, 20-19 (Ganguly) 138, 21-20 (Prasad) 139, 22-21 (Russell) 140, 23-22 (Hick) 141, 24-23 (Iremi) 142, 25-24 (Mullally) 143, 26-25 (Ganguly) 144, 27-26 (Prasad) 145, 28-27 (Russell) 146, 29-28 (Hick) 147, 30-29 (Iremi) 148, 31-30 (Mullally) 149, 32-31 (Ganguly) 150, 33-32 (Prasad) 151, 34-33 (Russell) 152, 35-34 (Hick) 153, 36-35 (Iremi) 154, 37-36 (Mullally) 155, 38-37 (Ganguly) 156, 39-38 (Prasad) 157, 40-39 (Russell) 158, 41-40 (Hick) 159, 42-41 (Iremi) 160, 43-42 (Mullally) 161, 44-43 (Ganguly) 162, 45-44 (Prasad) 163, 46-45 (Russell) 164, 47-46 (Hick) 165, 48-47 (Iremi) 166, 49-48 (Mullally) 167, 50-49 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Baitieri prepares to unhitch the French connection

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FOOTBALL

Holland pin hopes on Kluivert's recovery

BY DAVID MADDOCK

ON THE still-developing shoulders of Patrick Kluivert will rest Dutch hopes of rebuilding a nation's shattered self-esteem today. Even for the prodigiously talented Ajax forward, it is no easy task.

Holland's 4-1 defeat by England was described even by the wary Aimé Jacquet, the coach of their opponents at Anfield this evening, France, as a "humiliation". Confidence obliterated, Holland are riven by rumours of division and disharmony.

Kluivert, 19, only a frustrated substitute during much of the group skirmishes, will be recalled, according to the latest information from the Holland camp. To him falls the onerous task of blocking the widening breach in a once impressive dam. At least he

the Dutch team? Kluivert is a close friend of Edgar Davids, the midfielder who was sent home in disgrace for complaining after being dropped. His departure sparked ugly rumours of racial disharmony within the multi-ethnic party. Kluivert dismisses them. "I have yet to speak to Edgar, because the time is not yet right," he said, "but here are no divisions here. We are all playing for the team, and we are all playing in the same direction."

Kluivert's introduction will allow Bergkamp to switch to his favoured withdrawn role, and he will certainly offer a more potent scoring threat against France. He does not, however, want to be regarded as the simple answer to a forbidding problem. "I am not a saviour," he said. "I am proud of my goal against England but it was for the team."

"I have happy memories of Anfield, but Ireland was a long time ago, and if we are to repeat that performance it is not down to one man."

Kluivert will have the severest test of his fitness if he returns. He will compete against Marcel Desailly, the France defender considered by some as the best in the world. He tamed the fire-breathing Stoichkov to qualify his country for the quarter-final, and it is his presence that has done much to promote France to the ranks of favourites.

Desailly cautioned against over-confidence, but admitted that there is a growing sense of worth in the young France side. "We are getting stronger by the game, but the Dutch are wounded," he said. "They will feel England was an illusion, and still feel they are a great team. We know it will be tough."

HOLLAND (probable): E. van der Sar (Ajax), M. Reiziger (Ajax), D. Buijs (Ajax), W. B. Goede (Ajax), R. de Boer (Ajax), C. Seedorf (Spartan), J. Willems (Borussia), P. Kluivert (Ajax), J. Jord (Barcelona), D. Bergkamp (Arsenal), P. Kluivert (Ajax).

FRANCE (probable): B. Lama (Paris Saint-Germain), J. Anger (Toulouse), L. Blanc (Auxerre), B. Lecaune (Bordeaux), M. Desailly (AC Milan), D. Deschamps (Lyon), C. Karembeu (Sampdoria), V. Guerin (Paris Saint-Germain), Z. Zidane (Bordeaux), D. Djorkaric (Paris Saint-Germain), C. Duguey (Bordeaux).

feels fit for the job. The teenager has suffered a cruciate ligament problem, and only resumed competitive play in the European Cup final after three months of recuperation. He is, he says, raring to go.

"I am confident I can play 90 minutes, if selected," he said. "I feel fit, and I want to play. I will find out in the morning if I am in the side. I admit I was unhappy to be left out of the team for the game against England, but the important thing is the team."

Brought belatedly into the fray against England, he scored the goal that dragged a battered Holland through to the quarter-finals. Kluivert, too, conjured the two magical goals that dismissed Ireland at Anfield in a play-off in December.

The goalscoring pedigree is there, then, but is the will in

Caminero defies presidential campaign



Caminero commences the ritual shirt-stretching celebration of his goal against France that kept alive Spain's hopes of qualifying from Group B

José Luis Caminero no doubt left the telephone off the hook at his St Albans hotel room last night. On the eve of one of the most important matches in his career, he would not want to be disturbed, as he has been on most other evenings during the European championship finals.

The caller tormenting the Spain midfielder player for the past two weeks has been Jesus Gil, the president of Atlético Madrid, his club. The conversation has taken a predictable line. Gil is rather keen to retain him for the Spanish champions. Caminero, it seems, is even keener to leave.

The result is stalemate, and a fragile state of mind for a player carrying many of Spain's championship hopes. It is an unfortunate situation that has infuriated Javier Clemente, the Spain coach, and no doubt delights his opposite number today, Terry Venables.

The England coach is meticulous when it comes to researching the opposition, and there is little doubt that he will have identified Caminero as the greatest danger to his side's prospects of reaching the semi-finals. In a team of functionaries, Caminero provides the silver service.

David Maddock on the trials and tribulations of a player finding himself in growing demand

Caminero led Atlético to the domestic double of league and cup last season, and in doing so breached the dominance of Real Madrid and Barcelona. Now he is experiencing the eccentric side of Gil's nature, and he is not happy. He has moaned to anyone who will listen that he wants to leave and that attitude, ultimately, cost him his place in the Spain team.

Clemente, angered by domestic trivialities during an important national mission, threatened to drop Caminero, rated at £5 million in the transfer market, if he continued to sulk. He did, and he was left out of the final Group B game against Romania, even though he had scored the late equaliser against France in the previous game that, effectively, kept Spain in the tournament.

Chastened, and after agreeing to ignore his personal problems, Caminero is set to return against England, and it is a contest in which he can reverse his recent misfortunes. He cannot, however, resist dropping hints about his problems.

"I am unhappy because of my family," he said. "It is for family reasons that I want to leave Madrid, not for myself. It is true that I have had problems, but I am hoping that soon they will be behind me."

"I have spoken with the coach and I have assured him that I am concentrating solely on the nation's cause. I hope to be playing against England. I would like so much to play at Wembley. It is a venue where I believe I can justify myself."

It is true that Caminero is a player with the ability, and instinct, to grace Wembley — as the goal against France proved. What may be in doubt is his temperament. Many English observers were openly disgusted by the 28-year-old's histrionics against France.

The purists in the audience thought he stole little short of cheating, and even the more cynical were astonished by his blatant acrobatics, an aspect of his play that will concern England. Caminero is oblivious to such charges, preferring to portray himself

as sinned-against rather than sinner. His aim, he said, was to dazzle the English with his undoubted skills.

"I would like to play very much in this game," he said. "Maybe I have something to show everyone, that I am a player. It is a fitting stage for me to reproduce my form. I scored against France, and I think I can score against England," he said.

He frequently operates as a deep-lying centre forward, coming from deep to catch defences napping. He likes playing against English defences, because they play flat, providing him with perfect fodder. Caminero is confident, despite the sobering hand of Clemente, and he is undaunted by the task awaiting at Wembley.

"If I did not think that we had a chance of victory against England, I would turn my back and walk away," he said. "But we can win. We were amongst the favourites for the tournament at the start, and I believe we still are. We are still ahead of England."

Caminero is likely to return in favour of Amavisca, and he is hoping to attract Italian interest with his performance. A staunch Catholic and family man, he is still prepared to turn his back on Jesus.

Disarming Czechs are ready to turn on the power

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

THE Czech Republic's three trips to the Golden Mile in Blackpool have been a demonstration of a passion for recreation, but the marksmanship of this squad suggests that they might also have cleared any unfair shooting gallery of its prizes. The team, which meets Portugal in the quarter-final at Villa Park tomorrow, has brought a relaxed accuracy to Euro 96.

In addition to scoring three goals in the draw with Russia that saw them qualify from Group C, the Czechs also hit the woodwork four times. Pavel Nedved, one of their scorers against Italy, is suspended tomorrow, but, so far, the side has not been prone to the inhibiting anxiety of the nations who carry greater expectations. "The players have been the same before every game," Dusan Uhrin, the manager, said.

These are footballers who seem to have decided that their ambassadorial duties involve reminding the world of the place of beer in Czech culture. The convivial manner, however, also doubles as a defect. A lack of rigour was most apparent when they swiftly yielded a 2-0 lead to Russia, whose first goal came when Patrik Berger, the gifted midfielder player, did not mark Alexander Mostovoi.

"Berger must take more

Uefa has turned down Russia's appeal against a three-game ban imposed on the defender, Yuri Kovtun, who was sent off for a foul in the Germany game. He will miss their first two World Cup qualifying matches.

care with his defensive work," Uhrin said. He is not the only one. The Czech Republic, with six goals conceded in three matches, have the second worst defensive record in the championship. The return from suspension of Miroslav Kadlec, a veteran of the 1990 World Cup, may strengthen resistance at the back.

Uhrin trusts that his side is still evolving and said of his opponents: "Portugal do not change their line-up, because they have no better players."

Antonio Oliveira's team, though, is content with that kind of predictability. Ritual compliments of the Czech Republic were offered, but Paulo Sousa, an urgent presence at the heart of the team, also insisted on Portugal's superiority.

"It will be a battle in midfield because they are very strong there," he said, "but we are more creative. That is our main weapon." Even so, the elaborate Portuguese approach play can, at its worst, be an exercise in futility, permitting opponents time to arrange their defences, and Croatia, against whom they scored three goals, were weakened by the introduction of half-a-dozen underdogs.

Should the quarter-final reach extra-time, where the scorers of the first goal are the winners, the Czechs, with their readiness to let fly, will be menacing indeed.

Vogts banks on German efficiency against dark horses

BY PETER BALL

OLD Trafford is used to staging the match of the day in winter. Tomorrow it may do so in summer, too, when Germany, the favourites, meet Croatia, the dark horses, in the European championship quarter-finals, the winners going on to Wembley to meet the winners of the England game in the semi-finals.

Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, made great play before the final group matches of wanting to meet Germany

rather than Italy. Berti Vogts, the Germany coach, is much more circumspect, insisting: "Croatia are the secret favourites for the championship." His admission that he knows very little about the Croatia team perhaps explains the word "secret".

Yet if Vogts knows little about them now, with German thoroughness it is a safe bet that, by tomorrow, he will know all he needs to know. Eric Reimer, one of the coaching staff, has watched each Croatia game and Vogts

and Rainer Bonhof studied a video of Croatia against Denmark. Suiker, Boksic and Boban will be known quantities to their markers by the time the teams kick off.

Who those markers will be remains an open question, however, with the Germany defence in some disarray. Helmer, whom Vogts described as the "tower of strength" against Italy, confessed yesterday that he could hardly walk after the game and, although his leg is getting better, it is doing so slowly.

"We have wonderful physiotherapists," he said, "and they made me fit to play Italy. Maybe they will do so for

Sunday, too, but I'm sceptical."

Babbel returns from his one-game suspension, but with Reuter only jogging yesterday and Struntz suspended, the loss of Helmer would be a significant blow to Germany. They are, however, refusing to make excuses.

What remains to be seen is how good a team they are, the performance against Italy having dented their self-confidence. Vogts has tried to get them to play a more attacking game, and a "pressing" game in the style of the old Liverpool or AC Milan; to their surprise, Italy showed them how it should be done.

"We've tried to build up our system over the past 18 months," Jürgen Klinsmann said yesterday. "The Italians demonstrated it to total perfection, but we will get there."

In spells against the Czech Republic and Russia, they did so effectively. They will need Thomas Hässler to take some of the creative weight off Andy Möller and Sammer to reduplicate the excellence of his previous games, but, if they can do so tomorrow, they should prove too strong for Croatia.

With Boban pulling the strings, Boksic expected to return and Suiker revealing

sublime skills as a striker, it will not be easy, and the performances of the opposing strikers, Suiker and Klinsmann, should be fascinating and could be decisive.

There is no disguising Klinsmann's determination behind the easy charm, which was apparent when he was a teenager at VfB Stuttgart under Otto Baric, now a member of the Croatia coaching staff. "Jürgen used to stay behind and work for hours on his strengths," Baric recalled. "He is a goalscoring machine."

He used to get so frustrated if he wasn't scoring he would bang his head on the door. Davor [Suiker] doesn't do that!"

GERMANY (probable, 1-2-5-2): A. Köpcke (Eintracht Frankfurt), M. Sammer (Borussia Dortmund), M. Babbel (Bayern Munich), D. Eder (Werder Bremen), S. Reuter (Borussia Dortmund), T. Hässler (Karlsruhe), S. Freund (Borussia Dortmund), A. Möller (Borussia Dortmund), C. Zöni (Bayern Munich), J. Klinsmann (Bayern Munich), O. Bierhoff (Jugoslavia).

CROATIA (probable, 3-5-2): D. Ladic (Croatia Zagreb), I. Stipanec (Zagreb County), N. Jordan (Real Oviedo), S. Bilic (West Ham United), A. Asanovic (Radnicki), R. Prosinac (Borussia Dortmund), Z. Boban (AC Milan), M. Stanic (Club Brugge), R. Jami (Real Betis), A. Boksic (Juventus), D. Suiker (Stirling).

Walker steps out on return journey to Carrow Road

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MIKE WALKER was reappointed manager of Norwich City yesterday, 2½ years after a departure from Carrow Road for Everton that left the Norfolk air rancid with accusations of skulduggery and bad faith. He replaces Gary Megson, who took charge of the team only at Christmas.

Walker's return will, nevertheless, be welcomed by Norwich supporters who remember his successes in leading the club to some of its greatest achievements — including beating Bayern Munich in the Uefa Cup in 1993.

The former Colchester goalkeeper left the club in January 1994 when he believed it was impossible to work any longer with the chairman, Robert Chase, one of the most controversial figures in the game, who ran the club with an iron fist until overwhelming pressure from supporters persuaded him to stand down earlier this summer.

Thousands of Walker's followers wanted him to return to the club after his 12-month spell on Merseyside ended in ignominious dismissal. How-

ever, when asked whether he would go back to Carrow Road, Walker said: "I love the club, but while the present chairman is still there, I don't think it's a realistic possibility." He has since pursued a number of business interests after being frustrated in his attempts to get back into football, most notably with Leicester City and the Wales national team.

His arrival at Everton was shrouded in controversy after



Walker: reappointed

No such animosity will surround the latest arrival at Goodison Park. Gary Speed, the 26-year-old Wales international, signed a five-year contract with the club after leaving Leeds United in a £3.5million deal.

Speed can now realise his ambition of becoming a Goodison Park favourite. "This was always my club," he said. "I used to come across from North Wales to watch them play from around the age of 12."

Mick Wadsworth, the former director of coaching at Carlisle United, has been appointed manager of Scarborough, of the third division. The former Scunthorpe United player guided Carlisle to the third-division title in 1995.

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8/1 ENGLAND 15/8 DRAW SPAIN 4/1

Wembley, Kick-off 3.00pm, Live at William Hill.

FIRST GOALSCORER

11/4 SNEARER (E)	12/1 SALINAS (S)
5/1 SHERINGHAM (E)	14/1 CAMINERO (S)
11/1 PIZZI (S)	20/1 ANDERTON (E)
12/1 GASCOIGNE (E)	25/1 AMOR (S)

Other players on request.

CORRECT SCORE

5/1 ENGLAND 1-0	5/1 DRAW 1-1
3/1 ENGLAND 3-0	9/1 SPAIN 1-0
12/1 ENGLAND 3-1	16/1 SPAIN 2-1

Other scores on request.

TONIGHT'S LIVE MATCH

5/4 FRANCE 15/8 DRAW HOLLAND 2/1

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EURO 96

DAILY TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE

ENGLAND

The lingering bitterness that the England players feel about their treatment by the media over their behaviour on the Canary Pacific flight home from Hong Kong and in the aftermath of their opening draw with Switzerland two weeks ago is still coming to the fore at Bisham Abbey on a regular basis.

This week Paul Gascoigne told officials: "Even if I score a hat-trick in the final, I'm never talking to those ****s again." On Wednesday, Teddy Sheringham said that there were plenty of highs and lows in football and "most of the lows are caused by you guys". Yesterday, it was the turn of Alan Shearer. "I suppose I am relieved about all these goals I'm scoring," he said. "It might get you lot off my back for a few days."

Sheringham, an intelligent man just as he is an intelligent footballer, is nevertheless one of the many dinosaurs in football when it comes to public relations. Amid the euphoria of England's win over Holland on Tuesday night, he was ushered in front of a microphone with Shearer. "I hope you all realise that we have not been to the changing-rooms yet," Sheringham said.

The exceptions to this attitude are rare but appreciated. Jamie Redknapp is amiable and bright. David Seaman helpful and full of insight. David Platt courteous and straight-forward. Tony Adams and Neville just about takes the prize for approachability and lack of affectation, but even he has his worries. "He's petrified of you lot," Adams said.

CAUTIONS: Ince (2), Adams, G. Neville, Shearer, Sheringham, Southgate

OH

GERMANY

There is a famous story of the late Bill Shankly being bored on holiday in Cyprus and getting up a team to play the waiters. To Shankly's great satisfaction, they won. Alex Ferguson will have less happy memories of the day when he played for Mottram Hall's staff team against the German FA team.

The German team did not include their coaches, although Karl-Heinz Rummenigge played, and scored the final goal in a 6-1 victory. To add to Ferguson's discomfort, Mottram Hall were wearing Manchester United shirts.

Mehmet Scholl, the team joker, has been one of only two players not to have taken part so far, but, with worries about Häßler, he might be involved tomorrow. Yesterday, he and the injured Heimer were the two players who accompanied Klinsmann to the press conference. Inevitably, he was asked about his frustrations and unhappiness at not playing. Finally, he conceded that he had talked to Bert Vogts about his position.

"He told me my time will come," he said, adding wryly "the fact that I'm here could be an indication that it has come, and my three weeks as the man who takes care of team morale will be over and I will become an active footballer."

Injured players apart, the team's recovery after games has been a concern to their medical staff and, after having Thursday and yesterday morning off, they went to Macclesfield yesterday for their last session there.

CAUTIONS: Babel (2), Reuter, Häßler, Möller, Kuntz, Ziege, Bierhoff

DISMISSAL: Strunz

PS

FRANCE

Bring on the gendarmes. The British police may be the best in the world, but not as far as the France squad is concerned. Plans to cut down on trespass travel for Aimé Jacquet's players went well yesterday, until they were delivered into the apparently safe hands of Her Majesty's Constabulary.

France flew from Newcastle to their new hotel in Bolton to avoid a lengthy coach journey. Everything went according to plan, leaving only a 20-minute bus ride from the hotel to the Anfield pitch where they will play Holland today. Two hours later and the police outsider, a routing master, had somehow guided them into the middle of the Pennine mountain range, not a few miles away from Liverpool. Jacquet was less than amused.

One France player who may be asking an English policeman for directions in the near future is Frank Leboeuf, the central defender. He is the subject of a £2.5 million bid from Chelsea, and he is attracted by the idea. "I would like to play in England, I am a very good friend of David Ginola, and he has said very many good things about Premiership football," he said.

French clubs are also vying for Leboeuf's signature. Marseille have expressed an interest in the Strasbourg player, but a spokesman for the newly-promoted club said yesterday: "We understand that Leboeuf would rather play alongside Guillot and Vialli. No surprise there."

CAUTIONS: di Meco, Blanc, Karembeu, Djorkaeff, Desailly, Dugary

DM

PORTUGAL

Portugal have one of the smallest press corps at the championships — and one of the most polite, which certainly does nothing for the comparison to Brazil. Their politeness does not seem to be rewarding. They are not allowed to quote anything that Antonio Oliveira, the coach, says to them outside the official press conferences and, unlike the Germans, who regularly send three players to press conferences, the players rarely attend.

Fernando Couto followed the example of Vitor Bala, his captain, and declined a request for an interview from some English journalists this week, leaving Jorge Cadete to confide to a couple of Scottish journalists that Couto "probably hadn't made his mind up" about joining Rangers.

As well as a small press corps, Portugal may have the smallest support among the quarter-finalists, unless there is a late run on tickets for the match with the Czech Republic at Villa Park tomorrow. They were unable, yesterday, to confirm the number of tickets that their supporters had bought, but where Germany had had advance orders for 4,500 of their 7,000 allocation, Portugal's advance sales were around 800, according to German officials. Perhaps that reflects national pessimism.

The players' bonuses, though, are not tied to ticket sales, but to results. They will get \$54,000 (£35,000) each if they reach the semi-finals; a figure that will double if they get to the final itself.

CAUTIONS: Paulinho Santos (2), Ocasano, Sa Pinto, João Pinto, Paulo Sousa, Figo, Tavares

PS

SPAIN

This information service does not want to take any undue credit, but we did warn you about Javier Clemente. The Spain coach is not regarded for his subtlety or sensitivity of comment, as noted when he called Stochkov a cheat, and lambasted his own players for being wimps. Well, he has gone one step further before the game against England.

Speaking in El Mundo, he suggested that his side would be up against alarming odds at Wembley today. Or, in the less delicate way he put it: "There will be 2,000 of us against 70,000 drunks." Perhaps wisely, Clemente withdrew the comment when confronted by howling English journalists, but still remained true to his cantankerous self.

"If England win the tournament in their own stadium, then history will show they have not achieved much," he said, when asked to analyse the host nation's performances so far. Julio Salinas, the Spain forward, also added to the stimulating political debate between the nations. "If they beat us, then they should give us Gibraltar back," he said.

Clemente also had a novel reason for why there will be only 2,000 apparently sober Spanish supporters at the stadium. "We had 15,000 for the game against France, but, in Spain today, it is the deadline for paying rent, so maybe they can't afford it," he said. Clemente is likely to bring back Carreras, with Pizzi bringing the more mobile, but less favoured, Kiko, for the vital forward position.

CAUTIONS: Camarero, Sergi, Amor, Abeldano, Luis Enrique, Amavisca, Otero, Kiko, Nadal

DISMISSAL: Pizzi

DM

CROATIA

Many observers immediately questioned the wisdom of Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, when he stated, before the final group matches, that he would like his side to play against Germany, the Euro 96 favourites, in the quarter-finals. Even Otto Barić, his assistant, begged to differ.

Blazevic felt that the cold, calculating approach of the Germans would suit his players' more flamboyant, devil-may-care style and that Bert Vogts, his counterpart, would find it difficult to counter tactically the fluent and innovative talents of Boban, Prosinecki, Suker and Boksic.

For Blazevic, 61, it was an observation also borne of sentimentality, of a long-standing admiration for Germany's national teams past and present. Tomorrow, at Old Trafford, he finally gets his wish.

"I'm both pleased and proud to be playing them," Blazevic said yesterday. "Since I was a little boy, I have always followed their progress. It is the team I identified with, I always looked upon them as something special. Even when they played against the beautiful and romantic team of Hungary, who were so popular in the 1950s, I wanted Germany to do well. I have always dreamt of this moment."

History suggests that Blazevic's long wait may end in disappointment. The Germans have won all three previous meetings with Croatia, in the 1940s, and by convincing margins — 5-1 (twice) and 2-0. Win or lose tomorrow, though, Germany will have made an old man very happy.

CAUTIONS: Asanovic, Boban, Sokol, Stanic, Prosinecki, Vucovic, Pantic, Jarni, Pavlicic

RK

HOLLAND

Holland, who will try to slay apparently invincible France at Anfield this evening, have retained their sense of humour. Just by yesterday, Richard Witschge, the former Bordeaux midfielder, had concocted a novel excuse for the haunting 4-1 collapse against England at Wembley four days ago.

"It is simple," he said. "We always wanted to play in Liverpool and we have got our wish. When we beat Ireland in the play-off to reach the finals, it was at Anfield. We like the place. It is a nice stadium to play at. We want to go back, that is why we lost to England."

His smile betrayed any hint of plausibility... but it was then time to get serious. "Every team is entitled to have a bad day and, for us, it was Tuesday," he said. "Perhaps it is the best thing that could have happened. It will at least keep our feet on the ground."

Witschge, who returns to Ajax after the tournament, revealed that the players had subsequently held a meeting to attempt to discover the real reason behind such an abject display. Though he declined to disclose any details, Dennis Bergkamp, the Arsenal striker, was slightly more forthcoming.

"Some people have said that we will be better against the French because our problems will inspire us," he said. "But we had problems before the England game and we didn't play too well against them, did we? At least, now, I think our noses are pointing in the same direction." Come tonight, possibly straight back to Amsterdam.

CAUTIONS: Witschge, Taument, Seedorf, Winter, Zind, Bergkamp

RK

CZECH REPUBLIC

They are quick off the mark, these Czechs. Having naively decided that they could meet the media at midnight after their draw with Russia — and then realising that the ensuing party atmosphere did not provide the ideal backdrop to give quotes — they have now opted to invite the press over at the midnight hour only if they lose their quarter-final against Portugal. Astute planning, but how astute? Surely, arranging a press conference as early as 10am on the Monday morning after the night before, should they win, is optimistic?

Could it be, for example, that the players watched the recording of the game between Portugal and Croatia only yesterday because it took them that long to come back down to earth? (Desan Uhrin, the coach, has watched the recording three times already, just in case any of his players forget the plot.)

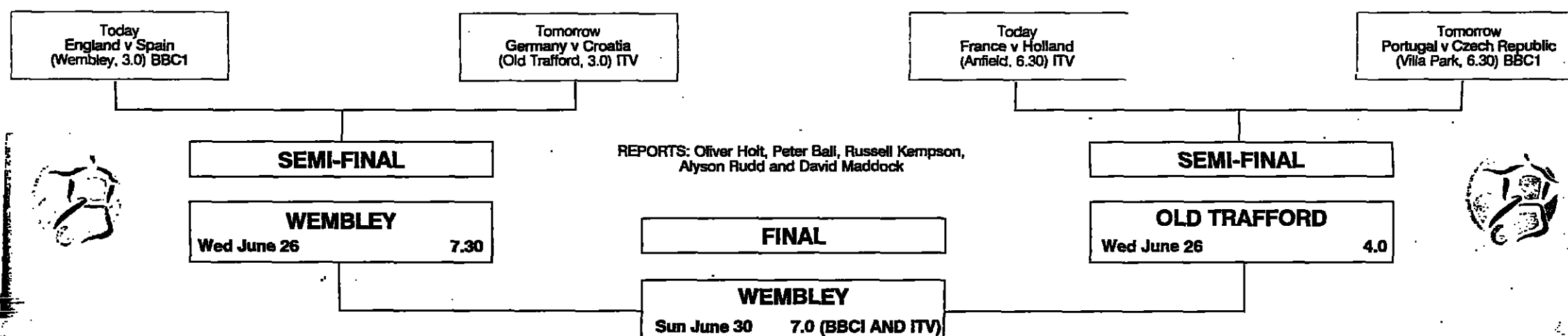
The Czech media seemed suspiciously interested yesterday in the team's ability to cope with a penalty shoot-out. Uhrin was asked to name seven players likely to take spot-kicks. He came up with Berger, Kuka and Kubic and then paused — for quite some time.

This was worrying. A few minutes earlier, Uhrin had confidently stressed that he had many players capable of taking penalties and a shoot-out would not be a problem. Nervous Czech reporters made some helpful suggestions and, after prompting, Uhrin added Poborsky and Kadlec to the list.

CAUTIONS: Nedved (2), Kadlec (2), Druzal, Belfi, Kuka, Suchoparek, Nemec

AR

QUARTER-FINALS



HOW THE GROUPS FINISHED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	7	2	7	France	3	2	1	0	5	2	7	Germany	3	2	1	0	5	0	7	Portugal	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Holland	3	1	1	1	3	4	4	Spain	3	1	2	0	4	5	5	Czech Rep	3	1	1	1	5	6	4	Croatia	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Scotland	3	1	1	1	1	2	4	Bulgaria	3	1	1	1	3	4	4	Italy	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	Denmark	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Switzerland	3	0	1	2	1	4	1	Romania	3	0	3	1	4	0	0	Russia	3	0	1	2	4	8	1	Turkey	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

GROUP A

England 1 Switzerland 1
Shearer (23) Turkyilmaz (83 pen)
(Wembley, attendance 76,567)

Holland 0 Scotland 0
(Villa Park, attendance 34,363)

Switzerland 0 Holland 2
Cruyff (65) Bergkamp (78)
(Villa Park, attendance 36,800)

England 2 Scotland 0
Shearer (53) Gascoigne (76)
(Wembley, attendance 76,864)

Scotland 1 Switzerland 0
McCoy (37)
(Villa Park, attendance 34,926)

England 4 Holland 1
Shearer (23 pen, 57) Sheringham (51, 62)
Kluivert (78) (Wembley, attendance 76,798)

GROUP B

Spain 1 Bulgaria 1
Alfonso (73) Stochkov (85 pen)
(Elland Road, attendance 26,006)

Romania 0 France 1
Dugary (24)
(St James' Park, attendance 26,323)

Bulgaria 1 Romania 0
Stochkov (3)
(St James' Park, attendance 19,107)

France 1 Spain 1
Djorkaeff (48) Camarero (85)
(Elland Road, attendance 35,626)

France 3 Bulgaria 1
Blanc (20) Panay (63 og) Loko (90) Stochkov (68)
(St James' Park, attendance 26,976)

Romania 1 Spain 2
Raducioiu (29) Manjari (11) Amor (83)
(Elland Road, attendance 32,719)

GROUP C

Germany 2 Czech Republic 0
Ziege (25) Möller (31)
(Old Trafford, attendance 37,300)

Italy 2 Russia 1
Casiraghi (5, 52) Tsyrbalair (20)
(Anfield, attendance 35,120)

Czech Republic 2 Italy 1
Nedved (4) Belfi (35) Chiesi (18)
(Anfield, attendance 37,320)

Russia 0 Germany 3
Sammer (56) Klinsmann (77, 90)
(Old Trafford, attendance 50,760)

Italy 0 Germany 0
(Old Trafford, attendance 53,740)

Russia 3 Czech Republic 3
Mostovoi (49) Tetrads (54) Suchoparek (6)
Beschastnykh (65) Kuka (19) Smirac (89)
(Anfield, attendance 21,126)

GROUP D

Denmark 1 Portugal 1
B Laudrup (21) Sa Pinto (52)
(Hillsborough, attendance 34,993)

Turkey 0 Croatia 1
Vavovic (85)
(City Ground, attendance 22,460)

Portugal 1 Turkey 0
Couto (68)
(City Ground, attendance 22,670)

Croatia 3 Denmark 0
Suker (53 pen, 90) Boban (81)
(Hillsborough, attendance 33,671)

Croatia 0 Portugal 3
Figo (4) João Pinto (33) Domingos (83)
(City Ground, attendance 20,484)

Turkey 0 Denmark 3
B Laudrup (50, 84) Nielsen (70)
(Hillsborough, attendance 28,951)

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1960 USSR
1964 Spain
1968 Italy
1972 West Germany
1976 Czechoslovakia
1980 West Germany
1984 France
1988 Holland
1992 Denmark

RUNNERS-UP

1960 Yugoslavia
1964 USSR
1968 Yugoslavia
1972 USSR
1976 West Germany
1980 Belgium
1984 Spain
1988 USSR
1992 Germany

LATEST BETTING

7-4: Germany
3-1: England
9-2: France
8-1: Holland
9-1: Portugal
12-1: Spain
14-1: Croatia
16-1: Czech Republic
□ Odds by Ladbrokes

LEADING SCORERS

4: A Shearer (England)
3: B Laudrup (Denmark)
H Stochkov (Bulgaria)
2: P Casiraghi (Italy)
J Klinsmann (Germany)
E Sheringham (England)
D Suker (Croatia)

FOUL PLAY

120 5

Cautions Dismissals

Will there be a German towel on the beach before June 30th?

Mick McCarthy assesses the chances of Jürgen and co. live on MSN.

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مكتبة الأصيل

Four goals and I'm in heaven with England

LYNNE TRUSS



KICKING & SCREAMING

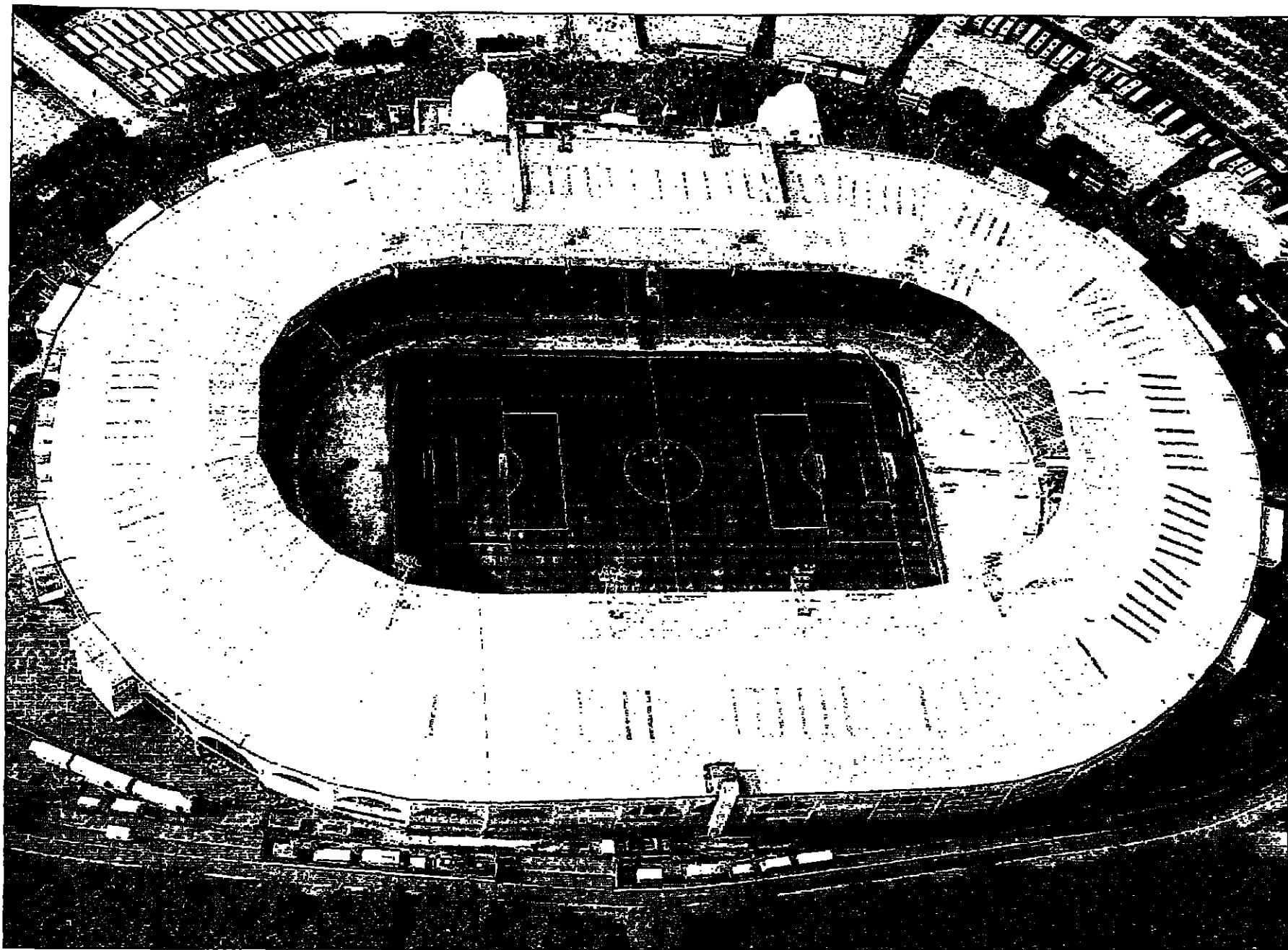
At two minutes past ten on Tuesday, my Euro '96 pager buzzed for the last time that night. Buzzzzz. "Hello, my little friend," I said happily. "Do you have another message, perchance, on this night of famous victory?" I fished it out, kissed it and pressed its buttons. "It makes you proud to be British," it informed me. "Coverage tomorrow of Group C/D finales. Goodnight!"

"Goodnight!" I replied, matching the exclamation marks. The pager's euphoria touched precisely the right chord, for it had been a day of great drama. In fact, at ten o'clock, I was still literally floating in the air.

Not only had England beaten Holland 4-1, but I had seen the match leaning out of the Fuji airship, 1,000 feet above Wembley Stadium, snoring the cool wind, straining to hear crowd noise over the drone of engines and watching agape as time after time, vertically beneath the emerald grass, a white ball travelled smartly — and oh so neatly — slap-bang into the enemy net.

And now in the mist, the airship sank towards a field near Woking and I came back down to earth with the gentlest of bumps. Excellent.

How was I chosen for the privilege of travelling on this airship? I am proud to say that my feminine bladder played a part. Its gondola being only about 12 feet long, the airship has no bathroom facilities; male correspondents could not commit themselves to a six-hour flight. Ha, ha, ha. "What, me worry?" being by no means my personal motto, I was in this instance happy to report



Floating on air: this was how Wembley Stadium looked from 1,000 feet up in the Fuji airship on that night of famous victory for England

myself quite carefree; and was soon packing a picnic and humming *We're In This Together* (as a hymn to my excellent urinary system).

So it was all arranged. My friend, Susan, agreed to come. She said she would wear a straw hat and bring binoculars. I took the pager and some chocolate cake. The day was fine and sunny. At 4.30pm, many Germans in smart white Fuji uniforms shouldered

the nose-ropes of the 180-foot canopy and walked our airship through long, parched grass with a heart-stopping solemnity that required only trumpets and powdered wigs to complete the feeling of baroque stateliness. Then they let go of the ropes, we rose on air, our American pilot, Corky, gave us forward thrust and we were on our way to Wembley.

The first thing you learn about airship flight is that it's more like

sailing than flying. "Ready to rock and roll!" Corky said cheerfully on lift-off, and unfortunately he meant it.

Outs the Aardvark (children's telly puppet) was copiously sick on a previous flight — a fact I found hysterically funny until the gondola started to dip and rise, dip and rise. Lumme. "Move about if you like!" Corky called back to us, over the roar of propellers. "Open windows!" Susan and I beamed

pluckily in response and gave the thumbs-up, but remained grimly belted in our seats, feeling our stomachs knock against our ribs.

Corky passed beneath us. Our photographer took pictures. Corky pulled bits of string, pushed pedals, spun a wheel — as though operating H.G. Wells's time machine.

We gasped and pointed, dutifully. Did people look like ants? Did cars look like Dinky toys? Did

trees look like painted sponge on a train lay-out? Yes, yes and yes. And Corky donned like Dallas, if you want to know.

We could see Wembley from miles off, the stadium sucking people towards it like a bar magnet with 75,000 iron filings. At the height of 1,000 feet, it turns out that you can see every individual person, but not quite well enough to wave.

How wonderful was this going

to be, exactly? At this point, of course, nobody knew. England were probably going to lose and I was probably going to be sick. I ate more chocolate cake, thoughtfully. But then the flags were brought out on the pitch and suddenly I could scarcely contain myself. I grabbed the photographer. "Flags!" I yelled, pointing. We opened the window and hung out to watch. And, from then on, it was simply magic.

Despite the noise, the incipient nausea and the disorientation brought about by relentless anti-clockwise circling ("which end are we? Which way are we going?"), the match was still amazing. "Penalty!" we yelled at each other, drumming our feet. "Score!" yelled Corky.

The pager (bless it) passed on the news a minute later, telling us who scored the goal. "Shearer!" we yelled, and drummed our feet again. Two weeks ago I had not heard of him. Now I want to have his babies. Meanwhile the players made breathtaking patterns, running back and forth endlessly like

'I had not heard of Shearer two weeks ago. Now I want to have his babies'

marbles on a tray. Floodlights came on in the second half and our view got even better.

As the roar of the crowd filtered through our engines, I felt so overwhelmed that I was impelled to sing *Lift Up Your Hearts* for the first time since school. How could there possibly be four England goals?

But then, how could we possibly be watching from up here? As the score mounted, we had so much to disbelieve that we didn't, in all honesty, know where to start. But when we returned to earth and it was all still true ("four-one!"), we felt happy, exhausted and strangely proud.

So now I am like the Ancient Mariner, telling the story to anyone who will listen. And the only after-effects — which are worth it — are a propensity to shout "free kick!" out of context, a habit of turning compulsively clockwise (to unwind) and a susceptibility to motor noise so exquisite that I jump in the air every time a car goes past or the fridge starts up.

Beautiful game scores on artistic impression

LET US this week explore some of the vexed and contentious places where art and football meet. For a start, who said:

□ I particularly enjoy the French impressionists — Renoir, Cézanne and so on.
□ Where scoring goals was concerned, he was a Picasso.
□ Football fans are taking part in a work of art.
□ Before half-time I had to go and rest, so exhausted was I by the ups and downs of the game.

Answers are at the foot of this column, but, before you look, I offer you some of the copy from a single piece in a publication called *Art: The Art Magazine*, reviewing an exhibition of footballing art in Manchester. "Sky TV's coverage... presents soccer as a kind of multi-artistry, Gesamtkunstwerk extravaganza... the crowd within panopticonic football stadia as instruments of mass social control or mobilisation... the deconstructionist analysis of Alan Hansen, Andy Gray and Gary Lineker... is as incisive, in its own way, as much art writing."

Good as that, eh? All the above was quoted in the programme for another exhibition of football art, this one called "England's Glory". It takes place at Gallery 27, in Cork Street, London, all next week. There are also some terrific pictures to look at and, if that is not enough incentive for a visit, there is a bar in the same street that serves the best pint of Guinness in London.

Keeping busy

Goalkeeper of the week is, not for the first time, Jorge Campos. Last weekend Campos played two matches in the same day: an international, for Mexico against the United States in the US Cup, and then, half an hour later, for his club, Los Angeles Galaxy, in a Major League Soccer game against Tampa Bay Mutiny. Both games were at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, which, at least simplified things. Mexico drew the first match 2-2, enough to win the four-team competition. In the second game, 2-1 down at half-time and brought on a substitute goalie — but left Campos in the game as an outfield player. By rights, he should have scored, but Galaxy still pulled a goal back and went on to take the match by

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

winning the "shoot-out". No player in modern history has played an international and a league match within an hour of each other. Strangest of all, perhaps: 92,000 people watched the two games.

Legal eagle

Legal news: Diana J Nagy is suing the Berry Hill Country Club, in Rhode Island, United States, after her husband, Alexander Nagy Jr, died from falling out of a golf cart two years ago. She is also suing the driver of the cart, Alexan-



der Nagy III, and the manufacturer of the cart. A spokesman for the country club said: "The elder Nagy had been drinking and fell out of the cart." Mrs Nagy is suing on the grounds that the cart had no seatbelts, no sides, no doors, inadequate brakes and suspension. She is also suing the club for serving alcohol.

Tactical error

Everyone wants to jump on the bandwagon of football

success, or, for that matter, of footballing failure. In Italy, this latter matter has included the Mafia. The alleged multi-murderer, Totò Riina, capo di tutti capi, dictated a statement from prison to his lawyer, Giorgio Mazzeoli, about the Italy coach, Arrigo Sacchi: "Yesterday, Sacchi used suicidal tactics and made suicidal choices." Sacchi can take comfort — perhaps — from the fact that Riina, known as *Scuro* or *The Short One*, is behind bars.

Barefaced bribe

Minor League baseball is a serious matter, at least for the players, but promoters face a constant battle to get people to watch the games, the concept of a second division not really being an aspect of the American *Zeitgeist*. So it comes about that Palm Springs, California, are encouraging people to go to the game on July 8 naked. To avoid offending such regular followers as they have and to protect baseball's "family image", the unclad supporters will be placed in a tent in left field, with an opaque screen shielding them from the gaze of the puritans. Sounds just the job for perking up county cricket.

Sticking-point

Bowls has gone metric this season and this has not been an easy, still less an appropriate, transition. Traditionally, the game is set up by the use of a "yardstick", which is, in fact, two yards in length. This is used to place the mat two yards from the ditch at the chucking end and the jack two yards from the ditch at the other. Now we have two-metre sticks. One club — I am told it is the Metropolitan Bowls Club at Bushey, in Hertfordshire, but they, on the Mandy Rice-Davies principle, say it must have been someone else — finished for the day one evening and the man responsible for the equipment collected the new sticks to stow them in the shed. They did not fit nicely, as they always used to — so he sawed the ends off. They were, in fact, too long by 17.12cm, or 6 7/8 in, if you prefer. Clearly a man with the right idea.

Answers: Rodney Marsh, Clive Allen (on Jimmy Greaves), Franco Zeffirelli and Salvador Dali.

FOOTBALL: SPAIN LIKELY TO PRESENT FORMIDABLE OBSTACLE TO HOSTS' HOPES OF PROGRESS

Redknapp confident of return to action

By OLIVER HOIT

JAMIE REDKNAPP, the Liverpool midfielder player who dragged England back from the edge of the abyss in the second half of the Group A game against Scotland last Saturday before his day was ruined by a twisted ankle, spoke yesterday about the conflicting emotions that have dominated his Euro '96.

Redknapp went on as a second-half substitute against Scotland and revitalised his team. He played a vital part in Alan Shearer's opening goal and brought Steve McManaman, his Liverpool team-mate, more and more into the game.

Five minutes from the end, though, Redknapp jumped for a high ball, landed awkwardly on his right foot and damaged ankle ligaments. He was carried off on a stretcher.

Caminero's class 53
Holland regroup 53
England expects 56

and his tournament seemed to be over after 40 short minutes. At Bisham Abbey yesterday, though, Redknapp, completed his second day of light training, and although Terry Venables, the England coach, said that he would not be ready for the quarter-final against Spain today, he may come into the reckoning if England reach the last four.

"It was disappointing when I had to go off," Redknapp said. "I was enjoying it so much. I was buzzing and I think everybody else was, too. I had been feeling really sharp in training and I knew I would take my chance if it came. I knew there were only a few minutes left and I was just thinking about the final whistle and relaxing after the game."

"I never quite got to do that, but football is full of highs and lows. I like to think I played my part against Scotland. It did not quite work out the way I wanted it to, but I am on my way back now. I am sure we can win this tournament and, if I continue to improve, hopefully I will be pressing for a place again."

Match that deepens shades of '66

David Miller likens England's task to the one they succeeded in 30 years ago



by a fanatical crowd. Spain

wear you down like a dripping tap. In 90 minutes against France — who, with the sadly-eliminated Italy, have been probably the most complete team in the competition — Spain absorbed everything, conceding only one goal, and levelled the score minutes from the end. A penalty shoot-out today must be a wretched possibility.

Alan Shearer, Teddy Sheringham and Paul Gascoigne can expect limpet-like man-for-man marking from Lopez, Abela, Nadal, Hierro and the rest, every bit as tenacious in their negative objectives as were Rattin and his colleagues under the direction of the infamous Juan Carlos Lorenzo. Spain are not participants in the same school of fouling

off the ball, which at that time distinguished Argentina, not only against England but also in the first round against Spain. For this, Lorenzo had already been warned by Fifa. After the quarter-final, in which Rattin, the captain, was notoriously sent off by Rudolf Kreitlein, the West German referee, Rattin was suspended for four international matches, and Ferreiro and Onega each for three.

England memorably won that match with a near-post header by Geoff Hurst from a left-wing centre by Martin Peters — the only goal. Today is likely to be similarly low-scoring, and England can expect the same dilemma.

Ray Wilson, the England left back in 1966, later recalled how difficult the match had been. "They'd won in '64 in Rio [a mini-tournament staged by Brazil] without conceding a goal, so we knew they'd be tough to play against," Wilson said. "They were a waiting game, whereas we were a counter-punching team. So the home side needed to change its style a bit. We were fortunate to have Geoff [Hurst] in the side. Until we had him, we couldn't play a 50-50 ball up front to draw a defender,

because you need a big man, good in the air, so that you can then profit from the knock-downs." England may need something equally special today from Shearer.

McManaman and Anderson, on the flanks, will find that they are heavily patrolled, perhaps even double-marked, by, respectively, Otero and Luis Enrique, and Sergi and Amavisca, in the way that England double-marked with Gary Neville and Pearce against the Holland wingers, Hoekstra and Jorri.

If Nadal, Spain's hit-man — he was sent off in the 1994 World Cup against South Korea and in the qualifying competition for Euro '96 — is detailed to shadow Shearer, where will England find space? It might need one moment of analytical game-reading by Platt, breaking from deep, to achieve a single clear scoring position.

In England's favour will be the fact that Spain, understandably, go to Wembley as the side with more to fear, whether real or imaginary. That kind of pre-match anxiety can become a burden that ultimately undermines concentration. Spain's unbeaten record since 1994 is a measure of their competence and it is unlikely that England will find much joy, even if they should win. In that instance, the joy will come afterwards.



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No quarter likely to be given as Spain block hosts' route to last four of Euro 96

England steeled for acid test

ROB HUGHES

Football
Correspondent

THE team that prevails at Wembley this evening will be English in style and temperament. It will spare nothing in reaching to the depths of courage, it will try to run the legs off the opposition. It will be direct, fierce and riding on the enormous roar of a full Wembley crowd. And the name of that team is... are you sure?

All bar 4,000 people among the 76,000 who are lured to the temple of English football after the triumphalism of Tuesday night will be cheering the anthems of the team in white. The assumption has been building for days that now that England have deflowered the Dutch, nothing can stop them winning the biggest sporting event in this country since 1966.

However, those who are intoxicated by goodwill had better be prepared for something far more attritional, something that will take each team to its very limits, and something that may be decided by a solitary goal, maybe even what is termed a "golden goal" in extra time — possibly even by the dreaded penalty shoot-out that, from now until the end of the tournament, will separate equals.

And if, though it is deemed treason to suggest it, that team today is not England, the nation has only itself to blame, for it was an Englishman who exported football to northern Spain 98 years ago, and who inspired Athletic Club de Bilbao.

It runs through the Basque separatism from Spain itself, it reminds the people that the tough northerners are more inclined to the English and their ways, and, for that alone, Javier Clemente, the Spain coach and the feisty little man from the Basque country, is unpopular to the point of apoplexy in the country where he is building a team more on the fighting spirit of the British than on the individualistic flair that once ruled, and let down, the Spanish nation.

Very much closer to home, there is one man in particular who is culpable in showing



Platt, left, who could replace the suspended Ince at Wembley today, looks relaxed as he talks to Anderton during England's training session yesterday



ENGLAND v SPAIN
Wembley
Kick-off: 3pm
Television coverage starts at 2.30 on BBC1 at 10.25-11.25
Radio: Radio 5 Live (coverage starts at 11.30am)
This will be the first match at this level to be played under the "Golden Goal" rule. If the scores are level after 90 minutes, the teams will play 30 minutes of sudden death extra time: the first team to score wins. If no team scores within the extra period, the match will be settled by penalty shoot-out.

built a national squad around Basques. Indeed, in the probable Spain line-up today, only Caminero was born in the capital. The vast majority were either raised in the north, or play as if they were. That goes for Miguel Angel Nadal, a Spanish southerner who is so ferocious that the red card is almost second nature to him. Paul Gascoigne, very probably, will find that there is no room for inspiration, no way past Nadal without being bruised up to and beyond the limits of a referee's tolerance. Nadal started this tourna-

ment, as he did the 1994 World Cup, two matches late because of suspension. He very quickly became the ninth Spaniard to be booked in Euro 96 and a tenth, the Argentina-born centre forward, Juan Antonio Pizzi, was sent off for a bad foul in the match Bulgaria. It is coincidence, I am sure, that Clemente's assistant is Andoni Goicoechea, the Basque who so revelled in the tackle that severely damaged the left ankle of Diego Maradona that he kept the boot that did it in a glass frame. Goicoechea, on spying mis-

sions this week, has isolated Gascoigne and Steve McMahon as the English players who must be stopped.

The heart of the Spanish resistance has been resistance itself. Nadal and the powerful, but fair, Hierro work at the heart of midfield, in front of the equally forceful central defenders, Alkorta and Abellardo. The full backs fly with pace, but the team finds it hard to be inspired into goalscoring form until the final quarter of the match.

Spain have twice come from behind, twice won precious points within the last five minutes, and this sting in their tail is planned for and expected even of a side made up of players supposedly tired after an extra-long domestic league season, which ran until May 26. "My team has a big heart," Clemente said. "No side's bigger. And you are right to describe the strengths as my pivotal midfield players, they are the best in the world."

England decided on Tuesday night that they, too, had talents among the best on

earth. Sheringham said that he plays now in a team that is on a par with Brazil. Yet there is no reason to suppose that the heart of the Spaniards will stop beating just because the greater mass of the crowd is on a high for someone else; and if the injury scares involving Adams, Shearer and Anderton become a gamble on their fitness, be sure that Spain will test every muscle, every sinew and every ounce of determination.

Today could bring confirmation of the new, super England, or it could bring the end of a shortlived fantasy. Knockout football at this level is as uncompromising as that.

ENGLAND (3-5-1-1, probable): D. Shearer (Arsenal); G. Neville (Manchester United); A. Adams (Aston Villa); S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest); S. McMahon (Liverpool); D. Platt (Aston Villa); G. Southgate (Aston Villa); P. Gascoigne (Liverpool); D. Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur); E. Shearer (Blackburn Rovers).
SPAIN (4-5-1, probable): A. Zubizarreta (Valencia); A. Beluso (Real Zaragoza); R. Alkorta (Real Madrid); F. Abellardo (Barcelona); S. Hierro (Barcelona); J. Marista (Deportivo La Coruna); F. Hierro (Real Madrid); M. A. Nadal (Barcelona); I. Kiko (Atletico Madrid); J. Clemente (Atletico Madrid); J. Pizzi (Tenerife).
Referee: M. Batta (France)

Venables's team have strength to defy omens

Bobby Robson on how the Spanish can be overcome in the quarter-finals

It is a strange coincidence and I hope it is not a bad omen, but it is ten years ago to the day since the England team I managed lost in the quarter-finals of the Mexico World Cup to Argentina. I know everyone is happy that we have got to the same stage of Euro 96 against Spain today but let me tell you now, it is not enough.

There were special circumstances about that game against Argentina, admitted by the presence of Maradona and his "Hand of God" goal. But we had gone into it like this England team, having recovered from a poor start and on the back of two handsome wins and we were feeling good.

When it was over, we were able to face the country with our heads held high but the overriding feeling was one of disappointment and anger. It was a job that had only been half done and it is an emotion that I hope Terry Venables and his team do not have to get to grips with this evening.

I made it clear earlier in the week, though, that from what I have seen of Spain, England should beat them. I saw an efficient team against France and Romania, a well-organised team, and one that will continue to fight until the end. They would not have scored the late goals they have if they did not have a good spirit.

If they have a weakness it is that they lack penetration going down the flanks and Shearer is more mobile than anything they have got in attack and more elusive. England, in my opinion, are way ahead in terms of creativity, too. We will unlock the door more than them and I think that, over the 90 minutes, England will score a couple of goals.

When they get to the last eight or the semi-finals of a tournament such as this, something seems to happen to the Spanish. It is almost as if they have not got that one outstanding player who can get them through to the final but, like the Portuguese, they are gradually getting over that underachievement problem

and their belief and philosophy now is as strong as it ever has been.

They have got a good coach, a thinking coach, in Javier Clemente, someone who is not afraid to change things round. When he was a young coach at Athletic Bilbao, he came to Ipswich Town in the early 1970s to see how we played and take notes. I did some blackboard work with him and showed him our systems. He had a real thirst for knowledge.

In fact, the issue is not really that the Spanish are lacking anything and I am looking forward tremendously to coaching the six Barcelona players in the squad when I take over there. It is more that the England team has great euphoria around it at the moment and the players are on a bit of a roll.

The kind of confidence they have got at the moment must be a bit like Nick Faldo standing on the first tee and knowing that he is going to hit it right down the centre of the fairway, or a batsman coming into a

game on the back of a couple of centuries, feeling that he is going to hit every shot off the middle of the bat.

That feeling happened to my team in the 1990 World Cup in Italy. We got to a stage where we did not think we could lose. It is a massive wave that they are riding at the moment and, with a bit of luck, it will become unstoppable as success follows success. They just have to beware of complacency but I think they can cope with that by now.

People have asked me if I will have any divided loyalties today with so many of the Barcelona players on view. Of course, I like to think that they will show me things that will give me confidence for next season but I cannot change my nationality. I have got my loyalties.

I am reading articles by players here and there and they seem to be enjoying themselves and the tournament. They should be able to cope with the new feeling of people actually expecting them to win for once. They are not afraid of anybody.

Shearer survives rigorous health check

By OLIVER HOYT

THERE was a time when all Alan Shearer was ever asked in press conferences was why could he never score for England. That line of questioning has gone for ever. Since he scored against Switzerland in the opening game of the European championship, all most people want to know is how long he can keep the run going. Yesterday, though, the subject was something different altogether.

The English and Spanish press were desperate to know about Shearer's thigh. Shearer was patient personified. He said he did not think it was a strain that had brought him to miss training, that it was more likely to be some sort of innocuous knock he had suffered in

the win over Holland on Tuesday. No, he said, he had never had an injury like this before, and, no, he did not know if it would be aggravated by playing on with it.

He thought rest was the best policy, together with the ultrasound treatment he is receiving. It would be his decision whether he played in the quarter-final against Spain today. He would have a fitness test this morning.

The attention to detail, though, was understandable. Coming amid doubts about the fitness of Darren Anderton and Tony Adams, the loss of Shearer, who has scored in every game so far and is the tournament's leading marksman, would be a heavy blow for England to absorb ahead of today's encounter at Wembley.

Already without Paul Ince, who will probably be replaced by David Platt in central midfield, England can ill-afford any further disruption to a team that had settled into a rhythm, especially against opponents as determined and unyielding as the Spanish. Gradually,

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though, fears were soothed as Terry Venables, the England coach, laid a calming hand on tense shoulders.

Adams' injury, a problem with scar tissue on his knee, was similar to the one he faced before the game

against Holland, Venables said, and he was able to play in that one. Anderton's problem, too, is thought to be relatively minor, even though it stopped him training for a second successive day yesterday.

Shearer gave nothing away but the consensus among observers at the England training ground was that it would take more than a thigh strain to make him sit out the game.

When the dissection of the injury problems was over, Venables turned his attention to today's opponents. "They have got a great spirit and they are technically very good," he said. "You do not get 20 games unbeaten by lying down."

Shearer warned that no one should expect any repeat of the free-flowing match with the Dutch. He forecast a tight, tense game, a war

of attrition more akin to last Saturday's game against Scotland without the same high-scoring result and euphoria.

"I would be very surprised if we were allowed the same kind of freedom we had against the Dutch," Shearer said. "Spain are a very dogged side and they do not give anything away. As long as we give 100 per cent, though, that is all anyone can ask of us."

As for signs of encouragement about his prospects of playing today, he gave one last signal that his appetite for scoring has not been dulled by his recent glut. "I have always said that the best feeling in the world is scoring a goal," Shearer said. "Don't tell my missus, that, but it is. When that ball hits the back of the net, it is fantastic."



Jack Russell, above, scored his second Test century as England reached 344 all out on the second day of the second Test match against India at Lord's yesterday. At close of play, India trailed by 261 runs with eight first innings wickets in hand.

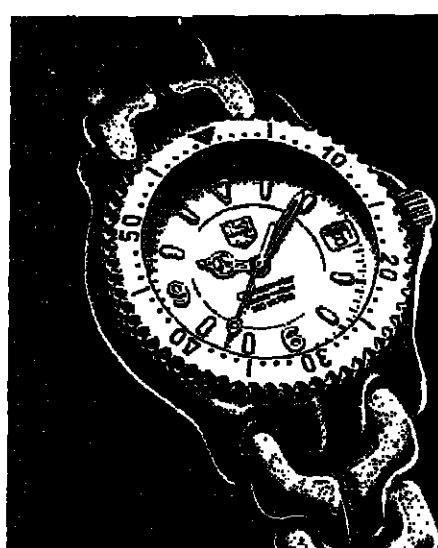
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ON MONDAY

A 16-page guide to Wimbledon



Shearer: injury scare



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